[illegible]ERS AND DECORATIONS OF THE [illegible]MOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA

BY DAVID L. CABRAL

ORDERS AND MEDALS SOCIETY OF AMERICA MONOGRAPH

ORDERS AND DECORATIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA

BY DAVID L. CABRAL

Orders and Medals Society of America
Monograph

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Both the author and the Society welcome and encourage comments and corrections to the material appearing in this work. Please send them to the Society.

We hope you enjoy this Monograph.

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Acknowledgements

I first began collecting North Korean badges and medals in 1985. After I bought my first medal I tried to correctly identify it. To my dismay, there was very little information available on North Korean awards. What was available was limited and confusing. In 1988, after I became confident with my Korean language ability, I decided to research and write a monograph on North Korean Awards.

North Korea is one of the most closed societies in the world today. Very little information about the DPRK finds its way to the free world. Fortunately, the Republic of Korea opened a North Korea Information Center in 1988. I was able to go through North Korean magazines and newspapers there, where I was able to piece together this monograph. However, I must stress that this monograph is by no means a complete reference on North Korean awards. There are gaps because the North Koreans did not always formally announce the establishment of new awards. I also was not able to find many newspapers that were printed during the period 1948-55. I have seen poor pictures of people wearing medals that I have not been able to identify nor find information on. A more complete reference on North Korean awards probably will not become available until after the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea opens its borders to the rest of the world. In the interim I hope that this monograph answers some of the questions that arise about North Korean awards.

I used the McCune-Reischauer System for romanizing the official names of the North Korean awards. The limited information I was able to locate all were romanized differently, thereby adding to the confusion to what awards were what. I hope that by using the McCune-Reischauer Romanization System I can standardize romanization of all Korean awards.

As with any project there are always a large number of people behind the scenes who provided invaluable assistance. This project was no different. I want to thank Prof. Igor Victorov-Orlov (OMSA #2815); Peter Groch (OMSA #1562); John Sylvester, Jr. (OMSA #1888); James Lang; Mike Thomason; Kevin Mahoney; Kevin R. Ingraham (OMSA #4853); David Stone of Princeton, NJ; the staff at Manion's International Auction House, Kansas; Victoria Luces and David Erskine-Hill of the Department of Orders, Medals & Decorations, Sotheby's; and all my Korean friends who have in one way or another contributed to the completion of this project and without whom I could not have accomplished as much as I have. I also want to thank Jon C. Thorpe who edited this monograph and pushed me to complete this project, and Joseph Shields who also edited this monograph and who helped me photograph my medals.

I am always looking for more information or more photographs on North Korean orders, medals, awards and badges. If anyone has any information or photographs of North Korean awards that are not covered in this monograph, I would appreciate it if you would send a copy of it to me. My current address can always be obtained through OMSA, or send it to 102 David Rd., Westport MA 02790. I hope that in a couple of years I will be able to update this monograph and provide a more comprehensive reference on North Korean awards.

David L. Cabral
12 August 1992

Last-minute acknowledgments: Figure 48 on page 53 is courtesy of Mike Thomason, and the photograph of the Democratic Youth League Badge (first version, 1950s) at top left on page 57 is courtesy of Tom Ryan, Historian, U.S. Eighth Army.

Introduction

The Chosun Minchu Chuui Inmin Konghwa Kuk, better known as the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) was established on 2 February 1948. The first DPRK decorations and awards were established in October 1948 and were patterned after the Soviet Union's awards.[1] Early DPRK orders and medals were made at the Soviet State Mint.[2] The President of the new Republic was Kim Il Sung who, as a Captain in the Soviet Army, was brought back into Korea as a liberator of the Korean people by the Soviet Government. Kim Il Sung received most of his training from the Soviets, as did many of his advisors.[3] Thus it was only natural that the new DPRK's awards and decorations would be patterned on Soviet awards.

From its foundation in 1948 until 1960, the DPRK gave out decorations and awards based on individual merit. After 1960, in order to mobilize the masses to accomplish economic goals and insure that the people were continually indoctrinated with Kim Il Sung's ideology, the DPRK government also issued awards to groups, schools, businesses, organizations, and agencies.[4] Prior to 1972 all DPRK awards were approved and issued by the Chairman of the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Central Standing Committee. After 1972, all awards were approved and issued by the President of the DPRK, Kim Il Sung.[5]

The DPRK government also awards its medals to foreigners. Initially they were given to members of the Soviet military and government. However, during the Korean War, many of the Chinese Peoples Volunteers (CPV) received DPRK awards. As an example, Figure 1 shows a picture of Chinese General Zhang Dao Yung's awards that were on auction at Sotheby's. The General's awards included the DPRK Order of the National Flag, Order of Freedom and Independence, Order of the Soldiers Honor (located directly under the picture of the Chinese officer), and the DPRK Military Merit Medal (located to the right of the officer's pic-

Figure 1. General Zhang Dao Yung's Awards. (Courtesy of Sotheby's)

ture). CPV soldiers also received the DPRK Fatherland Liberation War Campaign Medal and the DPRK Fatherland Liberation War Commemoration Medals which were established in 1953. After the Korean War, North Korea continued to give deserving foreigners medals for supporting North Korean policies or for strengthening friendship between their respective countries.

North Korean Honors can be classified into six general categories: Titles, Orders, Medals, Awards, Badges, and Banners. However, because of the large number of different titles, I will describe only the two most important. I also have decided not to include a description of the banners in this monograph.

Titles

Titles are the most common of the DPRK awards. They number over 160 and are generally divided into four categories: "Hero," "Peoples," "Merited," and "Model" and cover over 80 different fields. An example of the first category is the "Hero of the DPRK" and "Labor Hero of the DPRK." Examples of the second category of titles are "Peoples Artist," "Peoples Doctor," and "Peoples Teacher." Examples of the third category of titles are "Merited Cook," or "Merited Tractor Driver." Examples of the fourth category are "Model Industry Worker" or "Model Forest of Economic Value Enterprise." Titles are also awarded to groups or businesses.[6] Some titles have a medal or badge associated with it, some have no badges or medals but are awarded simultaneously with an order such as the Order of the National Flag First Class or the Order of Labor, and some titles are just awarded with a certificate from the Supreme Peoples Assembly.

Hero of the DPRK

(Choson Inmin Konghwa Kuk Yongung Ch'ingho)

Figure 2. Hero of the DPRK Gold Medal.

The title, "Hero of the DPRK" was established on 30 June 1950 by the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee. Currently, this and the title "Labor Hero of the DPRK" are the DPRK's second highest honors. Both titles are considered to have equal status. One title is awarded for heroic service to the nation and the other title is awarded for labor exploits. Prior to 1972, the two titles were the highest honors that a DPRK citizen could receive. The title, Hero of the DPRK, is awarded to groups and individuals who perform heroic service to the nation. The recipient of the title, Hero of the DPRK, will simultaneously be awarded the Order of the National Flag 1st Class, the Hero of the DPRK Gold Star Medal, and the DPRK's Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee's Letter of Commendation. Whenever a person again performs heroic exploits that merit the title Hero of the DPRK, a second Gold Star Medal is awarded and a statue of the recipient will be put in the recipient's hometown in order to commemorate his heroic exploits. Another DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee Letter of Commendation will also be awarded in this circumstance. A recipient of the title, Hero of the DPRK, will also receive a cash reward two times the regulation amount given with the Order of the National Flag 1st Class. The recipient of the title, Hero of the DPRK, will enjoy all rights and privileges in accordance with the regulations governing the Order of the National Flag 1st Class, 2nd Class and 3rd Class. Only the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee can revoke a recipient's title,

Hero of the DPRK. The Gold Star Medal will be worn on the upper left side of the chest.[7] Four hundred eight-one North Koreans and ten Chinese Peoples Volunteers received this honor for exploits during the Korean War.[8]

The Design of the Hero of the DPRK Gold Medal (Figure 2). The medal is 35mm in diameter with a five-sided outer edge of gold colored rays with a width of 2.5mm. Inside the outer edge is a circle 15mm in diameter, inside that circle is a white circle 7mm in diameter. Inside the white circle is a five-pointed gold star. The medal is suspended from the ribbon by a ring. The center of the ribbon is a 13mm wide red stripe, on both sides of the red center are white stripes 2.5mm wide, and on both sides of the white stripes are red stripes 2.5mm wide. The entire width of the ribbon is 22mm and length (top to bottom) is 11mm. The ribbon is wrapped around a metal backing and is bordered with gold plated metal at the top and bottom. The obverse of the medal has the words "Hero of the DPRK" written in nine characters and is numbered. A screw post is used to attach the medal to clothing.[9]

Labor Hero of the DPRK

(Choson Inmin Konghwa Kuk Noryok Yongung Ch'ingho)

The title, "Labor Hero of the DPRK" was established on 17 July 1951 by the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee. The title is awarded to groups and individuals who perform heroic meritorious achievements in the construction, culture and economic sectors. The recipient of this title will simultaneously be awarded the Order of the National Flag First Class, the Labor Hero of the DPRK Gold Medal with Hammer and Sickle, and the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee's Letter of Commendation. The Labor Hero of the DPRK Gold Medal with Hammer and Sickle (Figure 3) is similar in appearance to the Hero of the DPRK Gold Medal with the exception of the Hammer and Sickle in the center of the star.[10]

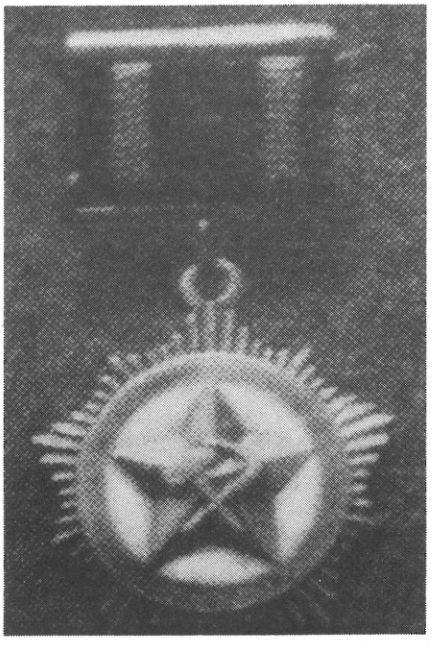


Figure 3. Labor Hero of the DPRK Gold Medal.

Orders

The Order of Kim Il Sung

(Kim Il Song Hunchang)

The Order of Kim Il Sung was established on 20 March 1972 in commemoration of the DPRK President's 60th birthday on 15 April 1972. It is awarded to the below listed categories of workers, groups, agencies, businesses, social cooperative organizations, and military units who have performed distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the revolution and in national construction. The recipients must have demonstrated meritorious achievement or service in implementing Kim Il Sung's instructions embodied in the Party's Policies: that they strongly protected and defended the Great Leader's political ideology; that they are firmly united around the Leader; that they always think and act in accordance with the ideas and intentions of the Leader; that their resolute convictions do not know any ideology other than Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology; and they must have demonstrated that they strongly armed themselves with Kim Il Sung's Great Revolutionary ideology, "Juche" (Self-Reliance) Ideology. The Order of Kim Il Sung is awarded each year on April 15. The following are the categories of people who are eligible to receive the Order of Kim Il Sung.[11]

1) Anti-Japanese Revolutionary fighters who greatly contributed to the revolution and to building of the nation from the period of the Anti-Japanese Struggle up to the present.

2) Persons who greatly contributed to the struggle to guarantee the Great Leader's authority and strengthen his influence domestically and internation-

Figure 4. Order of Kim Il Sung.

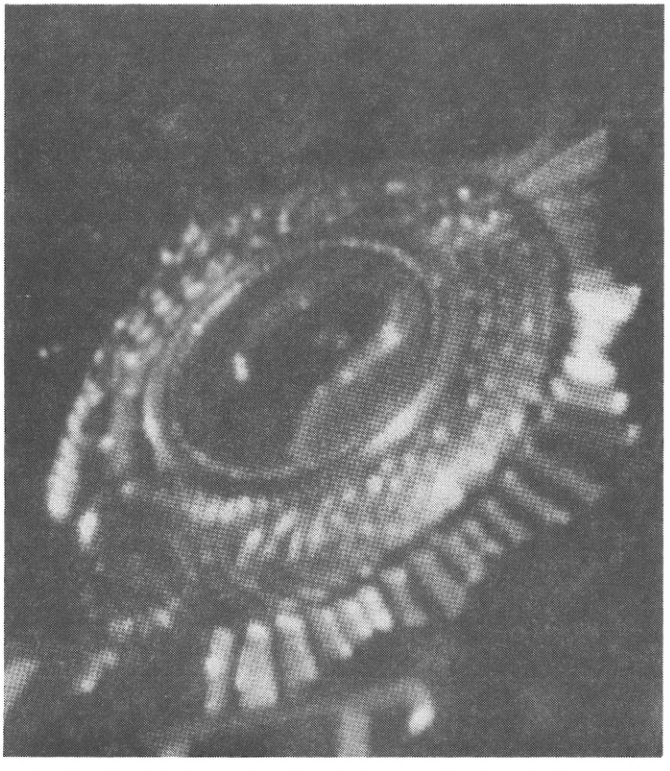


Figure 5. Order of Kim Il Sung. Current Version.

ally; who safeguard the unity of the party that developed the great Juche Ideology; who consolidated and developed worker organizations which have an important role in the peoples political power; and who strengthened the party which is the "general staff" of the revolution founded by Kim Il Sung.

3) Persons who greatly contributed to the struggle to spread the nation's revolutionary victory; who strengthened the Socialist Fatherland's power through systematic improvement in the peoples welfare and in the construction of the nation's socialist culture; who strengthened the nation's economic and military power; and who thoroughly apply the revolutionary spirit of self defense, self-reliance, and self autonomy in all fields of the revolution and construction.

4) South Korean Revolutionaries who perform distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the revolutionary struggle to achieve the reunification of an independent fatherland and a South Korean revolution; who oppose the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese militarists and their lackeys; and who achieve an anti-U.S. united front for national salvation and organize a domestic revolutionary force.

5) Chosun Soren members and overseas compatriots who greatly contributed to the DPRK's international prestige; who strengthen the international solidarity of the world's progressive peoples for the struggle to achieve the reunification of an independent fatherland; who protect the DPRK's rights; and who are firmly united around, and are armed with, Kim Il Sung's Juche ideology.

6) Foreign revolutionaries and other progressive persons who greatly contribute to the development and strengthening of Korean people friendship groups and the world-wide revolutionary people; who positively support the Korean people's struggle for the reunification of an independent fatherland; who drive out the U.S. imperialists and their South Korean lackeys; who frustrate the aggressive designs and the rebirth of Japanese militarism; who obstruct and cause the failure of the U.S. imperialist war policies; the rebirth of Japanese militarism; who obstruct and cause the failure of the U.S. imperialist war policies; who actively spread the international communist movement, the workers movement, and the national liberation struggle; and who regard as a firm guiding principle the Respected Leader, Comrade Kim Il Sung's great Juche ideology and anti-imperialist and anti-U.S. strategy.[12]

Design of the Order of Kim Il Sung (Figure 4). The Order of Kim Il Sung is a gold colored oval that is 60mm wide and 65mm long. In the center is a ring with a inner diameter of 31mm and a outer diameter of 34mm; inside the ring in gold relief is the profile of DPRK President Kim Il Sung; on both sides of the ring are rice sheaves which symbolize the Korean people resolutely unified around the leader and the party. At the bottom part of this order is a 9mm wide workers party symbol engraved on the DPRK's flag which symbolizes the Korean Workers Party; on the left side is a magnolia flower which symbolizes the Chosun Peoples Revolutionary spirit; on the right side is a laurel wreath the width of the DPRK's flag which symbolizes victory and glory. Over the party emblem on top of the flag is the Baek Du Mountain Lake which symbolizes the Leader's Great Juche ideology and the glorious revolutionary traditions historical roots of the party and the revolution; there are gold-colored rays emanating from the Baek Du Mountain Lake; and at the very top is a gold-colored five-pointed star which symbolizes Kim Il Sung's revolutionary leadership at the head of the glorious path and the Korean peoples constant victory. On the reverse are the words "Order of Kim Il Sung" with a number below it. The Order has a pin attachment. The ribbon is 33mm wide and 11mm long and is made of gold silk cloth; there is a gold-colored five point star in the middle of the ribbon. The reverse has a pin attachment.[13]

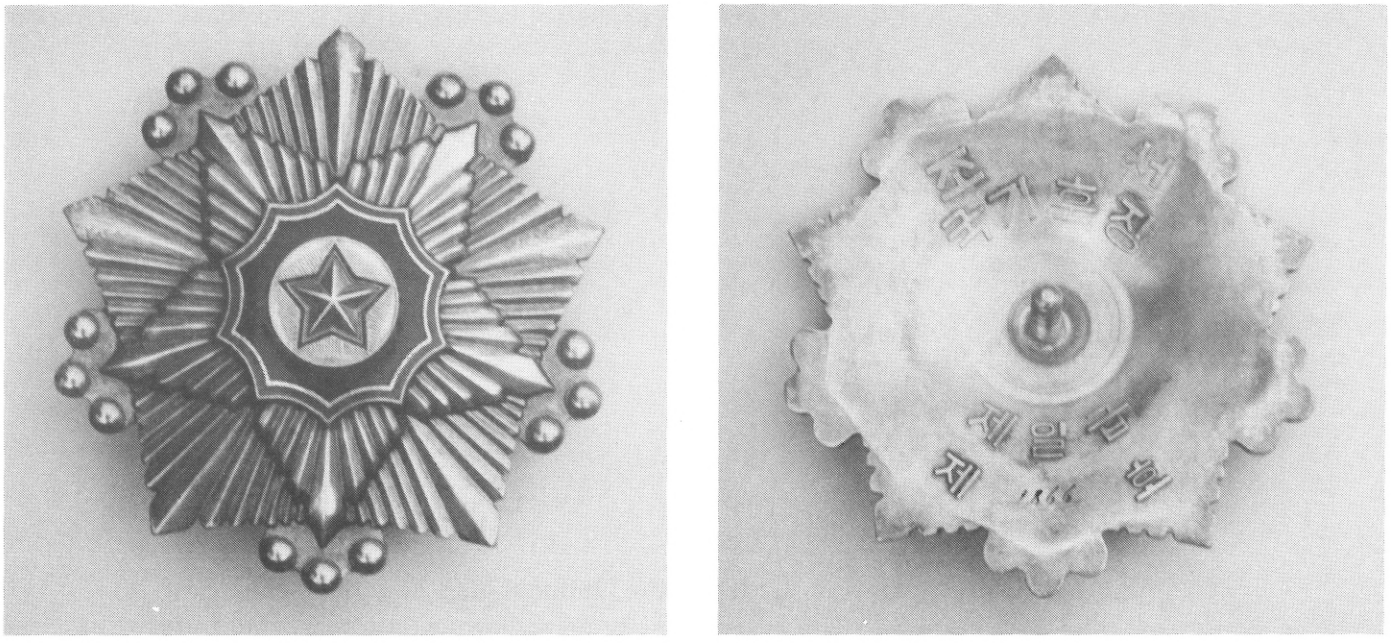
The current version of the Order of Kim Il Sung (Figure 5) has a five-pointed star of rays surrounding the oval. The rest of the order is the same as described for the original version. The change in design occurred at the end of 1991 or the beginning of 1992.

The Order of the National Flag

(Kukki Hunchang)

The Order of the National Flag is currently the second highest order in North Korea. Prior to 20 March 1972, and the establishment of the Order of Kim Il Sung, it was the highest DPRK Order. The Order of the National Flag was established in three classes on 12 October 1948 as one of the first decorations for the newly formed DPRK. It is awarded to individuals and groups/organizations who have performed with distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the struggle for national development and in the struggle for the nation's freedom and independence.[14] This award is also given to individuals who have 25 (first class), 20 (second class) and 15 (third class) years of distinguished service in the Korean Workers Party.[15] During the Korean War 1,344 North Koreans and 133 Chinese Peoples Volunteers (CPV) received the First Class badge; 1,651 North Koreans and 866 CPVs received the Second Class badge; and 51,527 North Koreans and 22,509 CPVs received the Third Class badge.[16]

The original version of the Order of the National Flag First Class badge (Figure 6) is of single piece

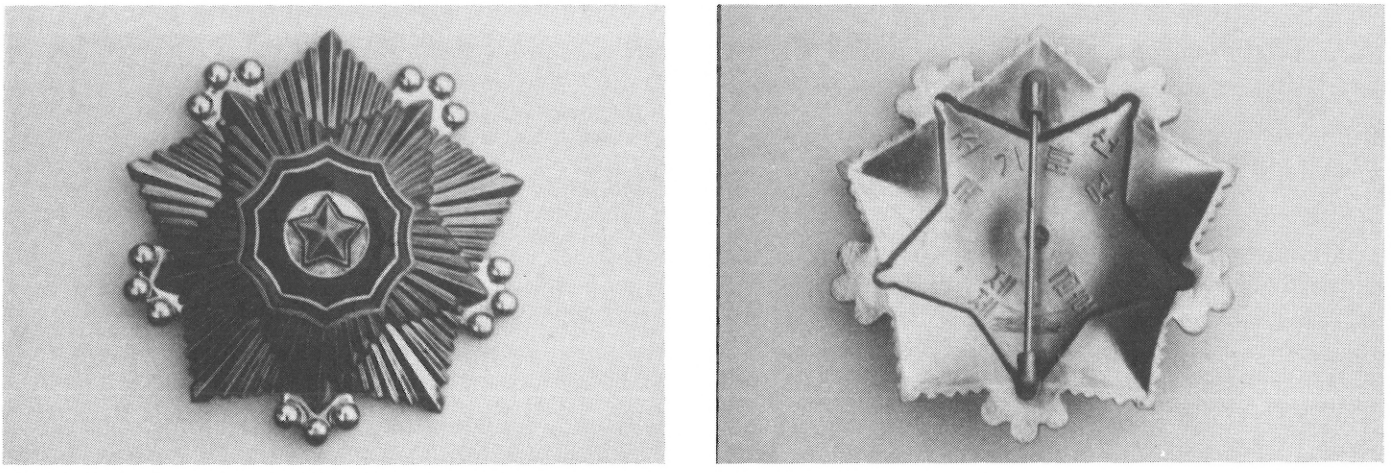


Obverse **Reverse**

Figure 6. First Version, Order of the National Flag First Class.

construction. The badge is a pentagon-shaped gold-colored star 72mm from top to bottom with a cluster of three small balls on each side of the pentagon. Inside the pentagon is a five point silver star 55mm top to bottom. In the center of the badge are the colors of the DPRK national flag, a small five point gold-colored star on top of a silver circle 16mm in diameter. The circle is surrounded by a red enamel ten-point star. The red ten-point star is in turn surrounded by a thin blue ten-point star. The reverse has a screw attachment and the words "Korea Order of the National Flag First Class, Number ####" in Korean. The current version (Figure 7) is slightly smaller than the original badge. It is of two-piece construction; the first piece consists of the outer star (64mm in diameter) and inner star (50mm) which are gold-colored, the second piece consists of the center piece of blue and red enamel (27mm in diameter) surrounding a gold-colored star inside a silver disc (12mm in diameter). The reverse uses a pin attachment and the words "Korean Order of the National Flag First Class, Number ####" in Korean. The Korean characters are narrower on this version.

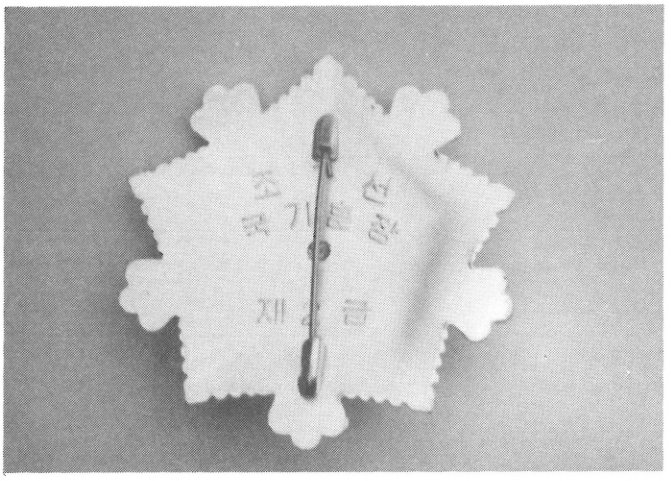
The Order of the National Flag Second Class badge (Figure 8) is similar in design to that of the First Class except that the pentagon-shaped outer star is silver-



Obverse **Reverse**

Figure 7. Current Version, Order of the National Flag First Class.

Obverse



Reverse

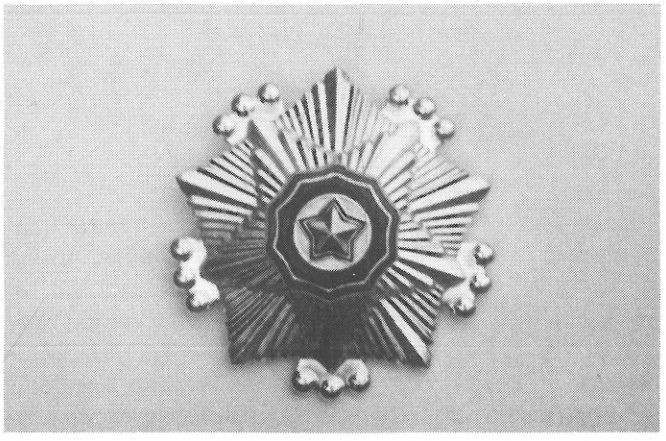
Figure 8. Current Version, Order of the National Flag Second Class.

original badge. It is of two-piece construction; the first piece consists of the outer star (64mm in diameter) and inner star (50mm) which are gold-colored, the second piece consists of the center piece of blue and red enamel (27mm in diameter) surrounding a gold-colored star inside a silver disc (12mm in diameter). The reverse uses a pin attachment and the words "Korean Order of the National Flag First Class, Number ####" in Korean. The Korean characters are narrower on this version.

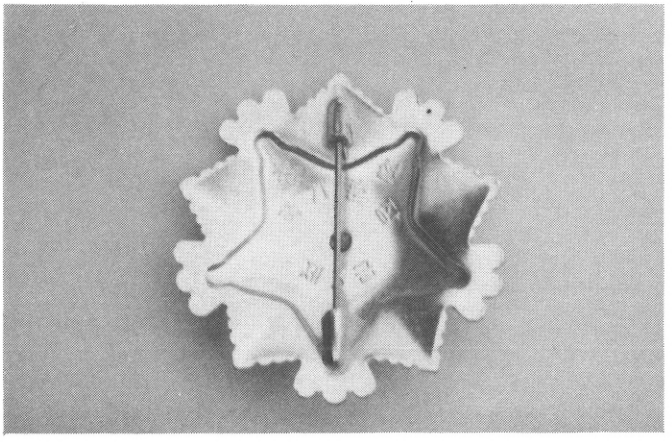
The Order of the National Flag Second Class badge (Figure 8) is similar in design to that of the First Class except that the pentagon-shaped outer star is silver-colored and the inner five point star is gold-colored The badge is of three-piece construction; the outer silver piece (61mm in diameter), the inner gold star (45mm in diameter) and the center piece (26mm in diameter). The center piece design and colors are the same as that of the First Class. The reverse has a pin attachment and the words "Korean National Flag Second Class" in Korean. The current version of this badge is not numbered.

The Order of the National Flag Third Class badge (Figure 9) is similar in design to the first two classes except that the outer and inner stars are all silver. The badge is of two-piece construction; the outer (52mm in diameter) and the inner star (42mm top to bottom) are one piece and the center piece (20mm in diameter) as the second piece. The design and colors of the center piece are the same as the first two orders. The reverse has a pin attachment and the words "Korean Order of the National Flag Third Class" in Korean.

Beginning in 1990, the DPRK began issuing a neck order along with the breast badges for all three classes of this order. The neck badge is similar in appearance to the breast badges and the neck ribbon colors are blue, red, and white.

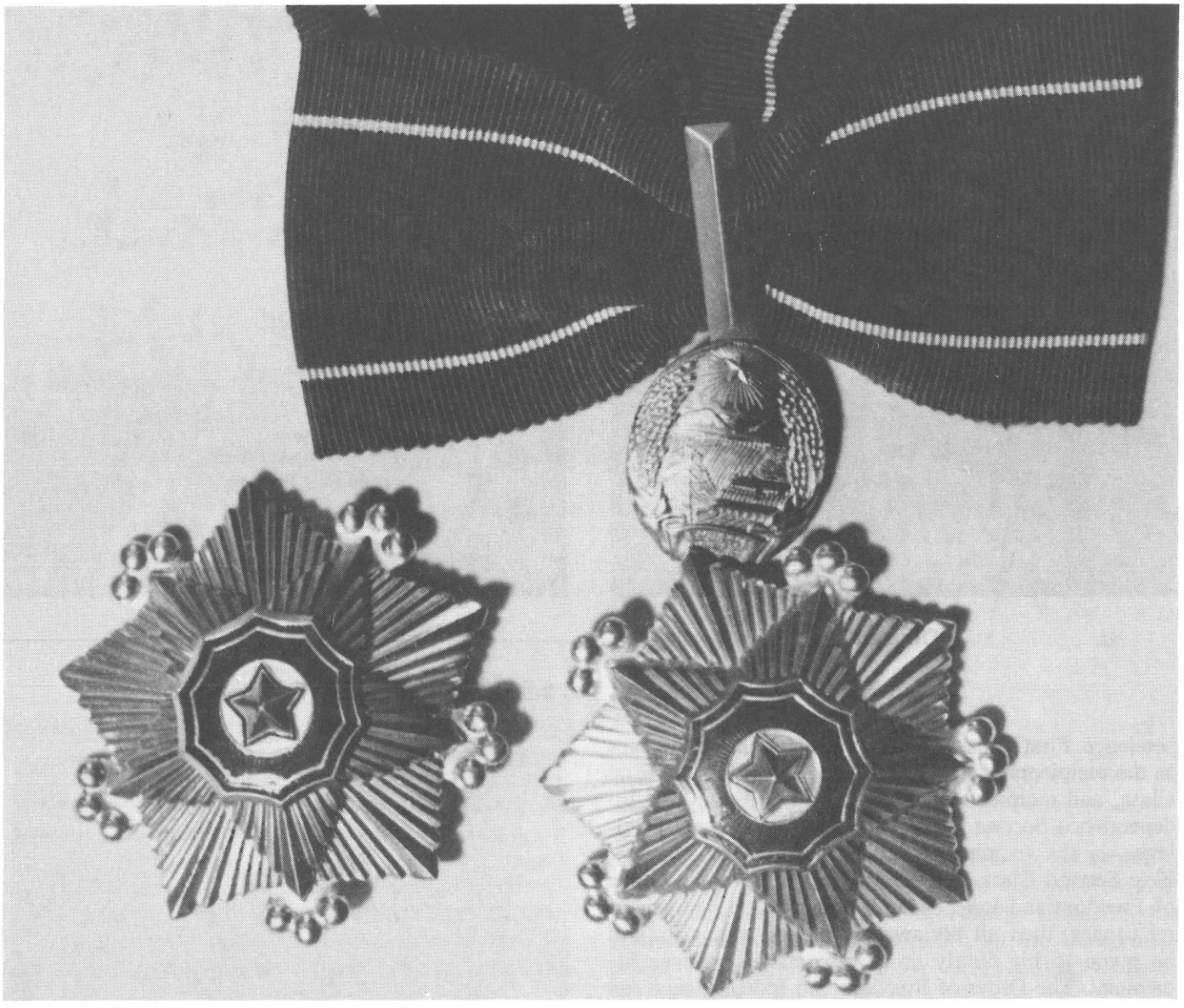


Obverse



Reverse

Figure 9. Current Version, Order of the National Flag Third Class.



Order of the National Flag 2nd Class, Neck Order with Breast Badge (Current). (Courtesy of Berliner Auktionshaus für Geschichte and Peter Groch)

The Order of Freedom and Independence

(Chayu Tongnip Hunchang)

This order was established on 7 July 1950 in two classes and is awarded to combined Guerrilla Unit Leaders, Regular Unit Leaders, and Peoples Army Commanders who proved their unit's superior military achievement through skillful command, and by exhibiting daring, fortitude and bravery in the war for the DPRK's unification, freedom, and independence. The Order of Freedom and Independence First Class is awarded to Division, Brigade, and Combined Guerrilla Unit Commanders. The Order of Freedom and Independence Second Class is awarded to Regiment, Battalion, Company and Regular Guerrilla Unit Commanders.[17] During the Korean War, 95 North Koreans and 126 CPVs received the Order of Freedom and Independence First Class, 3,043 North Koreans and 4,703 CPVs received the Order of Freedom and Independence Second Class.[18] Although this award was established during the Korean War to commend combat valor, it has been awarded to foreigners, especially those who engaged in other national struggles for independence and freedom, during the 1960s and 1970s.

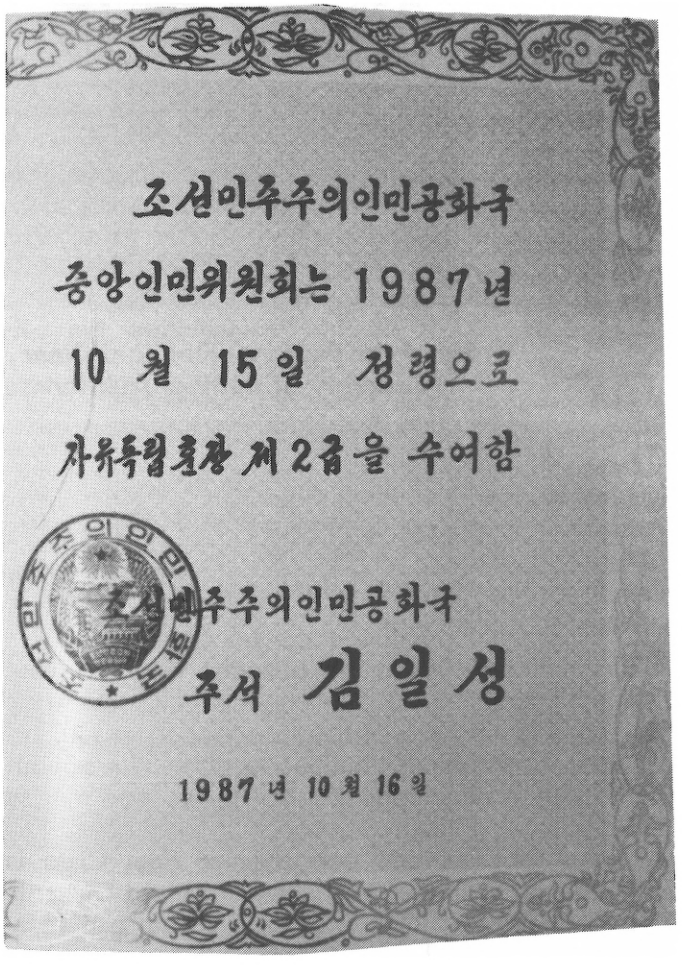
The recipient of the Order of Freedom and Inde-

Obverse **Reverse**

Figure 10. Order of Freedom and Independence Second Class

pendence First Class will receive the same privileges as the recipients of the Order of the National Flag First Class, and recipients of the Order of Freedom and Independence Second Class will receive the same privileges as the recipients of the Order of the National Flag Second Class. Should the recipient of the Order of Freedom and Independence die in battle or of natural causes, then all his awards, orders, and gifts will be given to his family as a souvenir to preserve his memory. The Order of Freedom and Independence can only be awarded or revoked by the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee. The badge of the Order is worn on the right side of the chest.[19]

Design of the Order of Freedom and Independence First Class. The First Class badge is 70mm in diameter consisting of a red five point star with gold trim, in the center of the star is a gold-colored ring 35mm in diameter and 5mm wide, inside the gold ring is a silver-filled circle 26mm in diameter. The picture on the silver-filled circle consists of a NKPA Commander leading a charge, following the commander are attacking soldiers, while in the background are tanks and airplanes. Above the gold ring, over the five point



Right: Award Certificate, Order of Freedom and Independence Second Class (Current). (Courtesy of Berliner Auktionshaus für Geschichte and Peter Groch)

Order of Freedom and Independence Second Class, Neck Order and Breast Badge (Current). (Courtesy of Berliner Auktionshaus für Geschichte and Peter Groch)

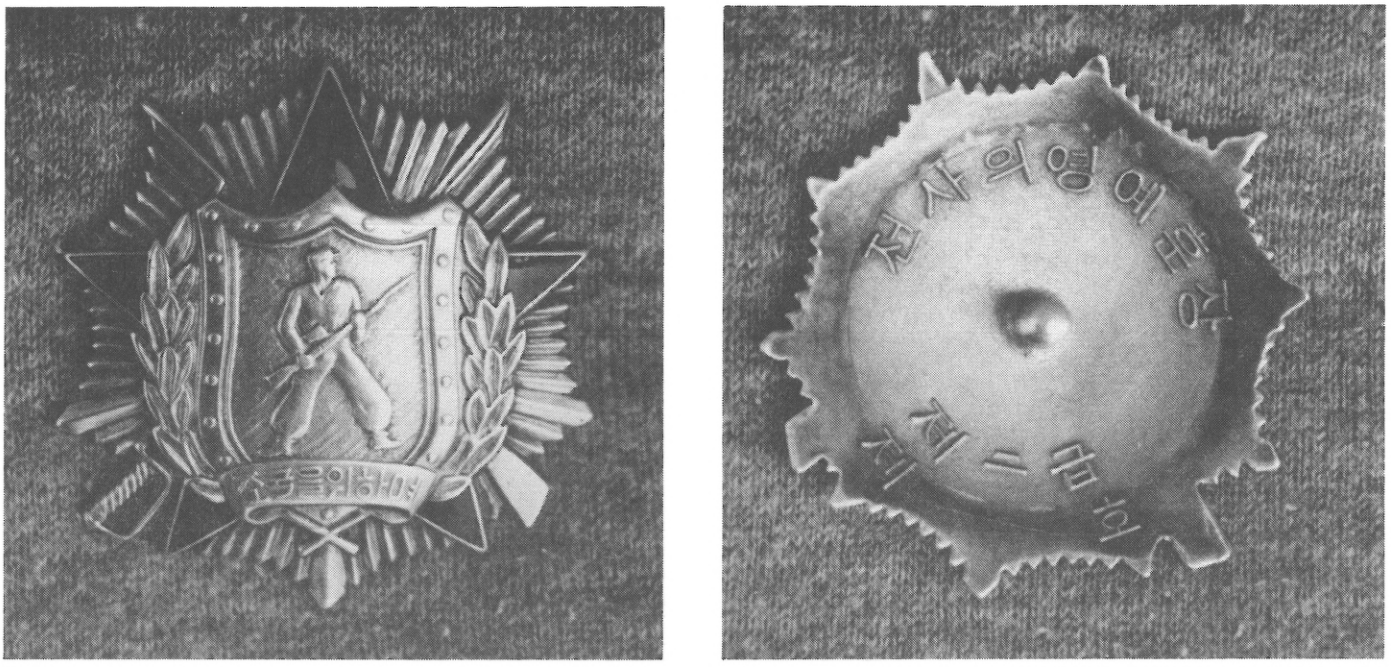
star is a red banner, inside the center of the banner are the words "For the Fatherland" written in six characters, and surrounding the red five point star are brilliantly radiating gold-colored rays. On the reverse are the words "Order of Freedom and Independence First Class" written in ten characters, with a number below the characters. The badge has a screw attachment.[20]

Design of the Order of Freedom and Independence Second Class (Figure 10). The Second Class badge is 58mm in diameter consisting of a red five point star with gold trim, in the center of the star is a gold-colored ring 30mm in diameter and 4mm wide, inside the gold ring is a silver-filled circle 22mm in diameter. The picture on the silver-filled circle consists of a NKPA commander leading a charge, following the commander are attacking soldiers, in the background are tanks and airplanes. Above the gold ring, over the five point star is a red banner, inside the center of the banner are the words "For the Fatherland" written in six characters, and surrounding the red five point star are silver-colored rays. On the reverse are the words "Order of Freedom and Independence Second Class" written in ten characters, with a number below the characters. The badge has a screw attachment.[21]

The Order of the Soldier's Honor

(Chonsaui Yongye Hunchang)

The Order of the Soldier's Honor was established on 1 July 1950 in two classes and is awarded to guerrilla unit members, "level 3" officers (possibly refers to second lieutenants), and Korean Peoples Army soldiers who exhibited heroism and bravery in the war for the DPRK's unification, freedom, and independence.[22] During the Korean War, 7,972 North Koreans and 530 CPVs received the Order of the Soldier's Honor First Class; 112,170 North Koreans and 6,349 CPVs received the Order of the Soldier's Honor Second Class.[23] The Order of the Soldier's Honor First Class is awarded only through the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee. The Order of the Soldier's Honor Second Class is awarded by Division, Brigade, and Guerrilla Unit Commanders in the name of the Chosun Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing



Obverse **Reverse**

Figure 11. Order of the Soldier's Honor Second Class

Committee. The Order of the Soldier's Honor is worn on the left side of the chest.[24]

The recipient of the Order of the Soldier's Honor First Class receives the same privileges as the recipient of the Order of the National Flag Second Class, and the recipient of the Soldier's Honor Second Class receives the same privileges as the recipient of the Order of the National Flag Third Class. Order of the Soldier's Honor recipients will receive the following privileges: privates will be promoted to noncommissioned officers, and noncommissioned officers will be promoted to Level 3 officers. In situations where the recipient loses his capability to work he will receive an additional 50% of his yearly wages. His children will receive free education until they graduate from college.[25]

The following are examples of acts that warranted the award of the Order of the Soldier's Honor:

Persons who guarantee overall combat victory through exhibition of bravery by attacking enemy positions upon first arrival.

Persons who continue to execute their combat mission from inside their burning tank.

Persons who stubbornly defend their unit flag from impending capture.

Persons who kill 10 to 50 enemy soldiers and officers with his own weapon.

Persons who destroy more than two enemy tanks using anti-tank artillery.

Persons who destroy between one and three enemy tanks with hand grenades in the enemy rear area or on the battlefield.

Persons who shoot down more than three enemy aircraft with a machine gun or with artillery.

Persons who destroy defending enemy units through decisive action, and at first arrival, attack enemy strong point and engineering works (after reconnaissance of strong points, trenches and bunkers) defying danger.

Persons who escort DPRK units to enemy rear areas and who exploit enemy weak defensive points through the results of one's own reconnaissance.

Persons who expose or destroy enemy roving guard positions (reconnaissance soldiers ambush site guards) at night.

Persons who destroy enemy machine guns or mortars and who attack the enemy front with bravery and endurance.

Persons who destroy enemy logistical materials warehouses through night sorties.

Persons who risk their life in combat to rescue a commander placed in danger.

Persons who risk danger to capture the enemy's unit flag.

Persons who shoot down an enemy aircraft with their own weapon.

Persons who guarantee their unit's combat victory by destroying enemy firepower with mortar or artillery.

Persons who open a path through enemy barbed wire entanglements under fire for their attacking unit.

Persons inside their disabled tank who continue to execute their combat mission using the tank's weapons.

Persons who attack an enemy company with their tank, annihilate the enemy company and continue to execute their combat mission.

Persons who destroy more than two machine guns or destroy one or more of the enemy's artillery pieces with their tank.

Persons who collect important enemy intelligence through reconnaissance.

Pursuit aircraft pilots who shoot down three to six enemy bombers or two to four enemy pursuit planes in aerial combat.

Attack aircraft pilots who destroy more than three enemy aircraft on enemy airfields, destroy military trains, destroy three to six enemy locomotives, or destroy two to five enemy tanks in a raid.

Attack aircraft pilots who shoot down one to two enemy aircraft through brave creative activity in aerial combat.

Bomber crewmen who destroy more than two enemy aircraft on enemy airfields, sink naval vessels or transport ships, blow up trench embankments, destroy Combined Forces staff elements, or destroy fuel tanks, ammunition dumps, and bridges.

Night bomber crewmen who blow up bridges and military trains, destroy enemy staff elements, or who blow up fuel tanks and ammunition dumps.

Long-range bomber crews who blow up military trains, fuel tank transportation lines, and ammunition dumps.

Bomber crews who shoot down one to two enemy planes through brave action in aerial combat.

Reconnaissance aircraft crew members who collect important intelligence on the enemy.[26]

Design of the Order of the Soldier's Honor First Class. This badge uses as a background a silver-faced ancient shield with a gold rim and is 22mm wide and 30mm long, a soldier holding a 20mm long rifle is pictured on the shield. The lower portion of the shield has the words "For the Fatherland" written in six characters, surrounding the outside of the shield in a semi-circle is a laurel wreath. Showing outside the laurel wreath are the five points of a red star 50mm in diameter, surrounding the star and shield is a ten-pointed star of brightly shining gold-colored rays, and showing in the upper and lower portion over the ten-pointed star are a crossed saber and long rifle. On the reverse are the words "Order of the Soldier's Honor First Class" inscribed in ten characters, a number is inscribed below the characters, the badge has a screw attachment.[27]

Design of the Order of the Soldier's Honor Second Class (Figure 11). The design of this badge is the same as the Order of the Soldier's Honor First Class except the ten-pointed star of rays surrounding the five-pointed star is silver, and the reverse has the words "Order of the Soldier's Honor Second Class."

The Order of Li Sun Shin

(Ri Sun Sin Hunchang)

The Order of Li Sun Shin (Figure 12) was established on 13 July 1950 in two classes and is awarded to DPRK naval officers who guarantee prominent results in combat, who execute plans for naval operations that secure a victory in the struggle to humiliate the enemy, and who give the enemy a colossal defeat in the war for the DPRK's unification, freedom, and independence.[28] During the Korean War, only 22 North Koreans received the Order of Li Sun Sin Second Class. There were no awards of the Order of Li Sun Sin First Class.[29]

Recipients of the Order of Li Sun Shin First Class will receive the same privileges as that of the Order of the National Flag First Class, and the recipients of the Order of Li Sun Shin Second Class will receive the same privileges as that of the Order of the National Flag Second Class. If the recipient of the Order of Li Sun Shin dies in battle or of natural causes all his orders and gifts will be given to his family as a souvenir to preserve his memory. The Order of Li Sun Shin can only be awarded or revoked by the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee. The Order of Li Sun Shin is worn on the right side of the chest.[30]

The following are examples of acts that warrant the award of the Order of Li Sun Shin First Class to DPRK naval officers:

A. Officers who perform meritoriously in destroying enemy coastal bases, strongholds, and the enemy's naval power by delivering sudden decisive strikes against the enemy; and officers who organize and execute skillful operations on the enemy's coast or oppose the enemy on the ocean.

B. Officers who attack and sink large numbers of enemy naval vessels and transport ships by skillfully organizing and executing naval combat along the enemy's main traffic routes.

C. Officers who complete their assigned mission by preserving their own unit's combat strength and destroying the enemy's superiority by exhibiting leadership and determination while commanding combat actions or operations.

D. Officers who complete their basic mission on the enemy's coast with minimum losses by organizing and executing an invasion through the close examination of and skillful execution of great amphibious operations.

Figure 12. Order of Li Sun Shin

E. Officers who caused the enemy to give up their invasion by inflicting great losses on the enemy by skillfully organizing and executing counterinvasion operations.

F. Officers who skillfully execute positive action that guarantees the defense of the DPRK's coast, bases, and main traffic routes through naval sea warfare.

G. Officers who execute and skillfully organize operations that support the Army's flank on the enemy's coast through positive action in land warfare and naval power.

The following are examples of acts which warrant the award of the Order of Li Sun Shin Second Class to DPRK naval officers:

A. Officers who through decisive action and skillful command engage in naval warfare with a superior and numerous enemy and destroy his enormous power.

B. Officers who destroy the enemy's materials and military power through skillful, quick, and daring surprise raids on enemy bases and coastal targets.

C. Officers who through bold action decisively destroy a numerically superior enemy, their basic naval vessels, and transport ships, using strong patrols along the enemy's main traffic routes.

D. Naval units that participate in amphibious operations and who skillfully organize and command tactical invasions and who execute decisive operations during the invasion.

E. Officers who destroy the enemy's enormous military force by skillful and precise combined movement of materials and the entire naval force to complete a decisive combat mission.

F. Officers who secure enormous combat results by skillfully executing operations.[31]

Design of the Order of Li Sun Shin First Class. The First Class badge consists of a 72mm blue five-pointed star which has a 4mm wide gold-colored ring 32mm in diameter in the center, there is a laurel wreath shaped in a semi-circle in the bottom part of the ring, the inner part of the ring is 24mm in diameter, and in the center of the ring is a gold-colored circle with a half-length portrait of Admiral Li Sun Shin. Outside of the blue five-pointed star are portions of gold crossed anchors which show just above and below the star, outside of that is a pentagon-shaped star of brightly shining silver rays. The reverse of the badge has the words "Order of Li Sun Shin First Class" written in eight characters and has a number embossed on it. The badge has a screw attachment.[32]

The ribbon is 52mm wide and 10mm long made of cloth surrounded gold metal strip. The ribbon has a 28mm wide blue stripe in the center, to the left and right of the blue stripe are 2mm wide white stripes, to the left and right of that are 2mm wide blue stripes, to the left and right of that are 2mm wide white stripes, to the left and right of that are 2mm wide blue stripes, and at the ends are 5mm white stripes. In the center of the ribbon is a gold-colored circle with a portrait of Li Sun Shin.[33]

Design of the Order of Li Sun Shin Second Class. The Second Class badge consists of a 60mm blue five-pointed star which has a 3mm wide gold-colored ring 27mm in diameter in the center. There is a laurel wreath shaped in a semi-circle in the bottom part of the ring, the inner part of the ring is 20mm in diameter, and in the center of the ring is a silver circle which has a half-length portrait of Admiral Li Sun Shin. Outside of the blue five-pointed star are portions of gold crossed anchors which show just above and below the star, outside of that is a pentagon-shaped star of brightly shining silver rays. The reverse side of the badge has the words "Order of Li Sun Shin Second Class" written in eight characters and has a number embossed on it. The reverse has a screw attachment.[34]

The ribbon of this order is the same as that of the First Class Order except that the color of the circle with the admiral's portrait is silver.[35]

The Order of Labor

(Noryok Hunchang)

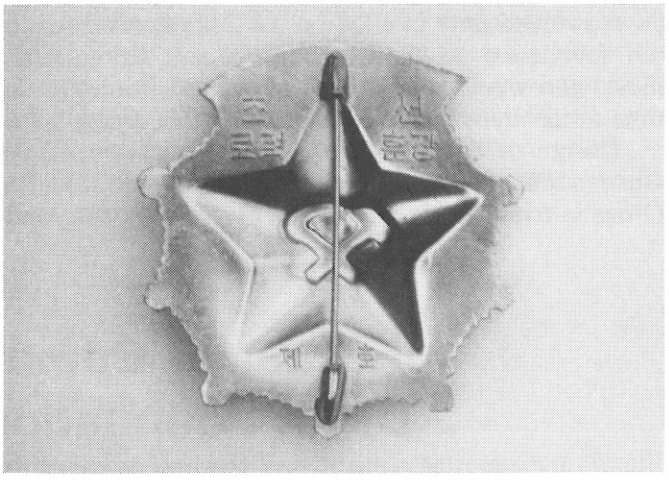
Figure 13. First Version, Order of Labor

The Order of Labor was established on 17 July 1951 to be awarded to an individual or groups/organizations that are firmly armed with the monolithic ideology of the party and who perform distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the political, economic, construction, and cultural fields.[36]

The original badge (Figure 13) of the Order of Labor was a gold-colored oval with a red-colored banner on top. Inside the red-colored banner in gold letters are the words "Noryok" (Workers Party). Directly beneath the banner is a circle with a picture of a man holding a sledge hammer and a woman holding cloth. Surrounding the circle is a ring and surrounding the ring is a cogwheel. Surrounding the cogwheel and just stopping at the edges of the banner are sheaves of rice. The sheaves of rice are tied together at the bottom of the badge with a red ribbon. Inside the knot of the ribbon is a gold-colored workers party symbol.

The design of the badge of the Order of Labor was changed sometime in the late 1960s or the early 1970s. The current version of the badge (Figure 14) appears to be stamped out of a light, gold-colored metal. The design consists of a ten-point star, 60mm in diameter, composed of ten longer sword-shaped rays with shorter rays in between. A red enamel banner 8mm wide is at the top of the medal and the Korean word "Noryok" is in gilt inside the banner. Within the ten-point star is a five-point star 41mm from top to bottom with a hammer and sickle in the center. Surrounding the star is a wreath of rice sheaves (bottom) and a cogwheel (upper). The reverse has a pin attachment and the words "Korean Order of Labor" written in Korean over a "Number ####."

Obverse



Reverse

Figure 14. Current Version, Order of Labor

Order of Commemoration of the Korean Peoples Army Foundation

(Chosun Inmin Kun Ch'angkun Kinyum Hunchang)

The Order of Commemoration of the Korean Peoples Army Foundation was established on 25 January 1968 to annually commend Public Security workers, Security Force soldiers and the Korean Peoples Army soldiers who performed distinguished service and meritorious achievement in the implementation of Korean Workers Party policies, and to forever commemorate the foundation of the Korean Peoples Army which is the revolutionary force of the Korean Workers Party and who are direct descendants of the forces who participated in the armed struggle against the Japanese, organized and executed under the leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung. The Order of Commemoration of the Korean Army Foundation is awarded to Korean Security Force soldiers and active duty Korean Peoples Army soldiers who perform distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the development of the Peoples Military Force and who served for long periods in the Korean Peoples Army and Security Forces.[37]

The Order of Commemoration of the Korean Army Foundation is also awarded to Public Security workers who perform distinguished service or meritorious achievement in protecting the people's lives and property, who safeguard socialist gains, and who served for a long period in the Public Security Agencies.[38]

The Order of the Commemoration of the Korean Peoples Army Foundation was established by, and is awarded by order of, the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee. The badge is worn on the right side of the chest. This order appears to have been awarded only in 1968 on the 20th Anniversary of the foundation of the Korean Peoples Army. Only those who were members of the Armed Forces at the time of the anniversary were awarded this order.[39]

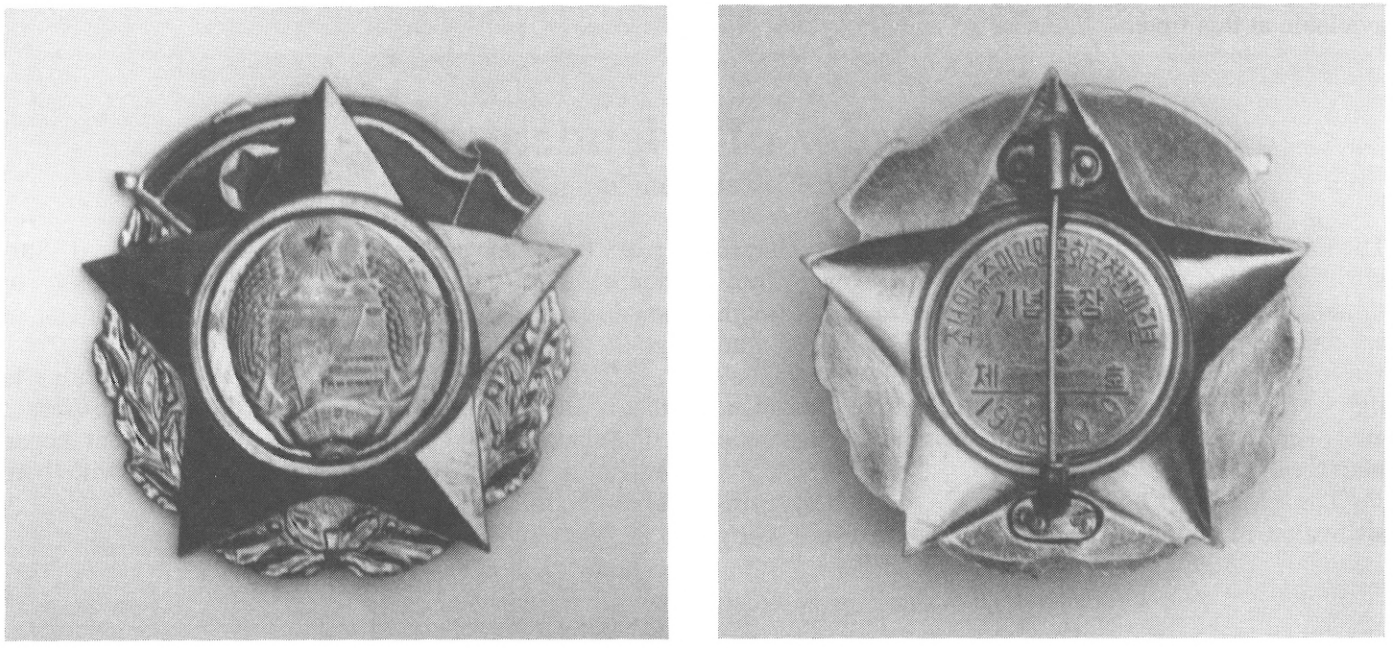
Design of the Order of Commemoration of the Korean Peoples Army Foundation (Figure 15). The Order is 65mm wide with gold-colored rays surrounding a circle 45mm in diameter, on top of the circle and gold-colored rays is a large five-pointed red star. In the center of the red five-pointed star is a circle 35mm in diameter, inside the circle is a 27mm high and 22.5mm wide gold-colored DPRK national emblem. On the reverse of the badge are the words "Order of Commemoration of the Korean Peoples Army Foundation 8 February 1968" with a number. The reverse has a screw attachment.[40]

Figure 15. Order of Commemoration of the Korean Peoples Army Foundation

Order of Commemoration of the DPRK Foundation 20th Anniversary

(Choson Minchu Chuui Inmin Konghwa Kuk Ch'angkun 20 Chunyun Kinyum Hunchang)

The DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee established the Order of Commemoration of the DPRK Foundation 20th Anniversary on 24 May 1968 in order to nationally commend Party, Government, Working Peoples Organization, National Economic Agencies, and Socialist Cooperative Organization workers who performed distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the implementation of the Ko-



Obverse **Reverse**

Figure 16. Order of Commemoration of the DPRK Foundation 20th Anniversary.

rean Workers Party policies and political line, and to forever commemorate the foundation of the DPRK's peoples true political regime which was founded in the revolutionary traditions of the Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle organized and executed under the leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung. The Order of Commemoration of the DPRK Foundation 20th Anniversary is awarded to Party, Government, Working Peoples Organization, National Economic Agencies, and Socialist Cooperative Organization workers who perform their duty with great self-sacrifice for the unification and independence of the fatherland; for the development and stability of the Socialist system which the Korean people gained by revolution; and who strengthen the military capability, the development, and the stability of the Korean Workers Party which was the general staff of the revolution for the last 20 years.[41]

The Order of Commemoration of the DPRK Foundation 20th Anniversary is worn on the right side of the chest. This order also was issued only in 1968, to all persons who met the above criteria and who were working in an government or an official organization at the time of the 20th anniversary of the DPRK.

Design of the Order of Commemoration of the Korean Democratic Peoples Republic Foundation 20th Anniversary (Figure 16). The badge of the order is 55mm in diameter with a laurel wreath in the background, a 60mm diameter gold-colored five-pointed star on top of the laurel wreath, and in the center of the star is a circle 32mm in diameter, with a gold ring 2.5mm wide. Inside the ring is a 27mm high and 22.5mm wide gold-colored DPRK national emblem on top of a white colored disc; on top of the gold-colored star is a waving DPRK flag. On the reverse of the order are the words "Order of Commemoration of the Korean Democratic Peoples Republic Foundation 20th Anniversary 9 September 1968" written in nine characters. The reverse also has a pin attachment.[42]

The ribbon is 33mm wide by 10mm high in the shape and colors of the DPRK's flag.[43]

Order of Coal, Mine Industry Service Honor

(Sokt'an, Kwangop Pokmu Yongye Hunchang)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of Coal, Mine Industry Service Honor on 3 September 1973 in order to commend coal and other mine workers who greatly contributed to the rapid increase of the peoples economy's supply of coal and iron ore through ceaseless innovation and dedication; who strongly spread the three great revolutions of culture, technology and ideology; who exhibited high revolutionary zeal and creative activity serving for a long period in the coal and mining sector; and who actively implement the Korean Workers Party's economic policy.[44] A description of the badge of this order is not

available at this time.

Order of Friendship

(Ch'inson Hunchang)

The Order of Friendship was established in two classes on 25 July 1985 by the DPRK Central Peoples Committee. The Order of Friendship is awarded to foreign specialists, technicians, dignitaries, and diplomats who actively strengthen international revolutionary solidarity, who develop cooperation and economic exchange, and who help strengthen their country's friendship with the DPRK.[45]

The First Class badge (Figure 17) of the order consists of a lit torch on top of a circle surrounded by green laurel leaves. The flame on the torch is red. Surrounding the laurel leaves appears to be a circle of small balls. Underneath the circle is a five-point star of gold-colored rays on top of a red five-point star.

The Second Class badge (Figure 18) is similar to that of the First Class badge except that it is smaller.

Beginning in 1990, the DPRK government began awarding a neck order of the same design with both breast badges.

Order of Friendship First Class, Neck Order and Breast Badge (Current). (Courtesy of Berliner Auktionshaus für Geschichte and Peter Groch)

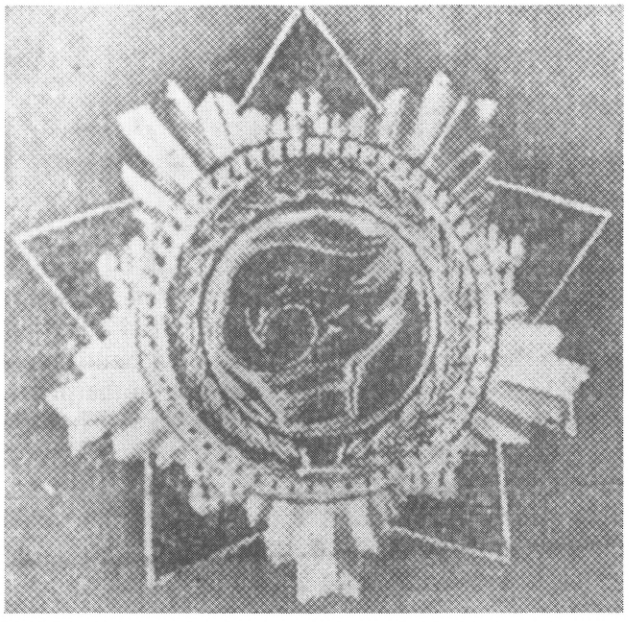


Figure 17. Order of Friendship First Class.

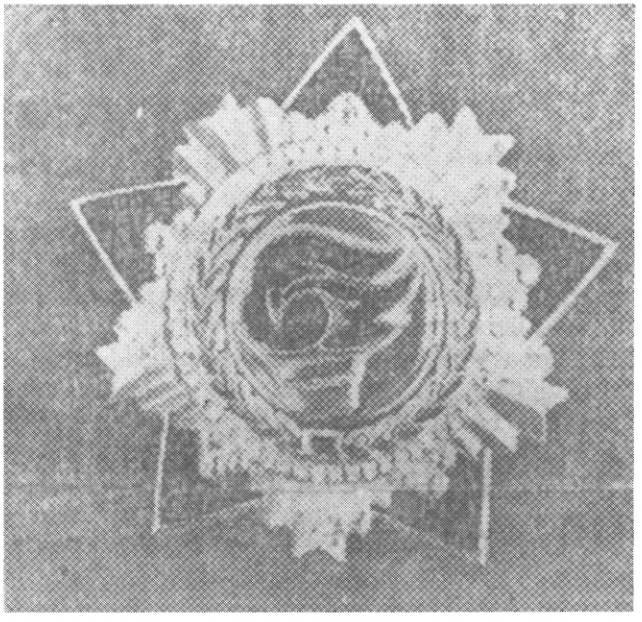


Figure 18. Order of Friendship Second Class.

Order of Marine Industry Service Honor

(Su San Pokmu Yongye Hunchang)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of Marine Industry Service Honor on 9 January 1986 in order to nationally commend the marine industry workers and laborers who greatly contributed to the development of the nation's marine industry, and who improved the people's life through selfless devoted struggle in order to implement and achieve the success of the Korean Workers Party's marine policies. A description of the badge of this order is not available at this time.[46]

Order of the 5 March Anniversary

(3 Wol 5 Il Kinyom Hunchang)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee on 3 March 1986, the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the implementation of the Great Land Reform Law, established the Order of the 5 March Anniversary in order to nationally commend farm workers who perform distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the struggle to produce more agricultural and animal products to develop the socialist farm economy; and to forever commemorate the Comrade Kim Il Sung's immortal revolutionary successes and his proclamation of the historical Land Reform Law which destroyed the maneuvering of the class enemies of the liberation of Korea, and which opened a new era of solving agricultural problems in our nation and released the farmer from centuries old backwardness. A description of the badge of this order is not available at this time.[47]

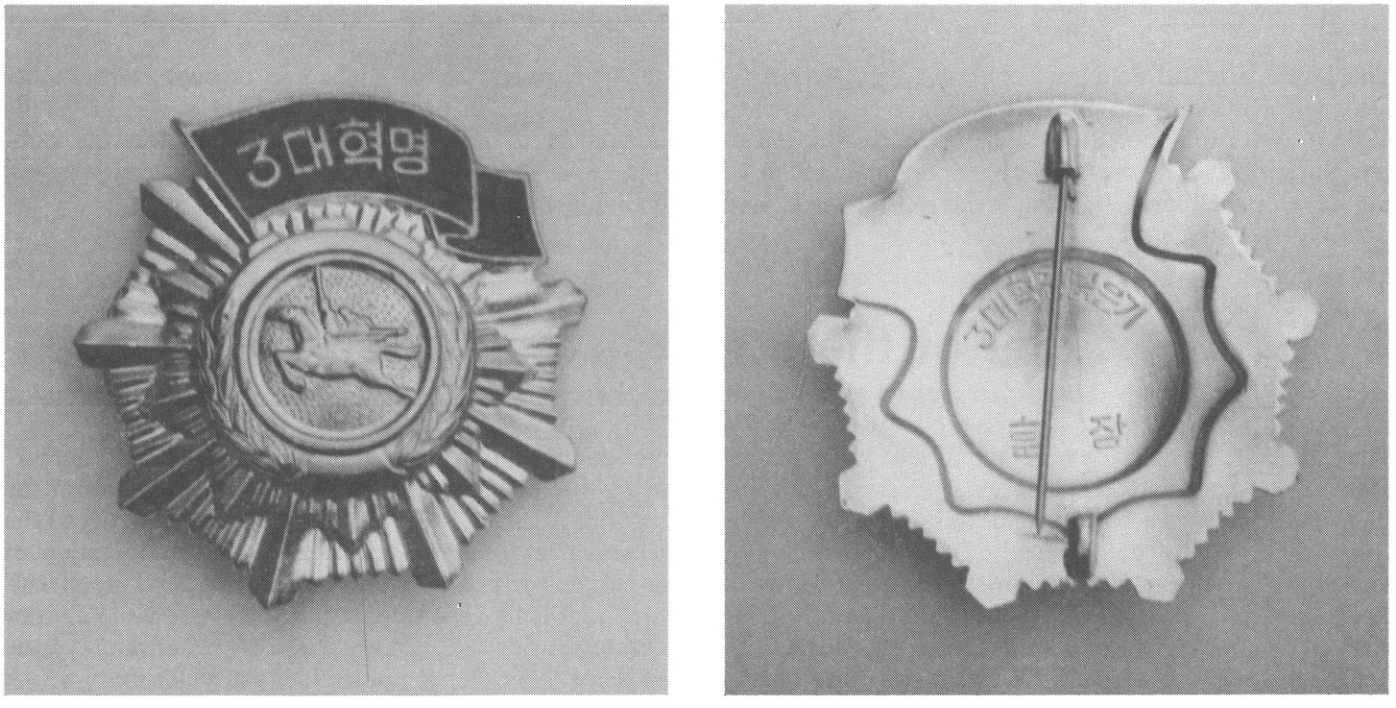
Order of the Red Banner of the Three Great Revolutions

(3 Tae Hyokmyong Pulkunki Hunchang)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of the Red Banner of the Three Great Revolutions on 20 November 1986 in order to nationally commend the devoted workers of the DPRK's socialist construction who performed distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the implementation of the three great revolutions of ideology, technology, and culture; and who intensify and actively spread the Red Banner of the Three Great Revolutions movement. This order is awarded to the "devoted riders" of the Red Banner of the Three Great Revolutions who implement society's great undertaking of the Juche Ideology and who implement their assigned revolutionary tasks in the nation's socialist construction; who established a production culture; who actively widen the technical innovation movement; and who strongly arm themselves with Juche Ideology. The Order of the Red Banner of the Three Great Revolutions is worn on the left side of the chest right after the badge of the Order of the National Flag Second Class.[48]

The badge of this order (Figure 19) is of one-piece construction, 60mm in diameter. It is a ten-pointed star in the secondary position made of silvered alloy composed of ten longer sword-shaped rays with shorter rays in between. Another ten-point star in the primary position is superimposed upon the former. The upper points of the first star are hidden by a large red enamelled waving banner 12mm high and has the gold-colored Korean characters "3 Great Revolutions." The gold-colored medallion in the center is 32mm in diameter. The center displays a flying horse (known as "Chollima," the horse that can jump 1000 li with one leap) with a rider holding a torch surrounded with a simple ring, which is in turn surrounded with a semi-wreath of rice sheaves (lower) and a cogwheel (upper).

The reverse has a pin attachment and the words "Order of the Red Banner of the Three Great Revolutions" in Korean.



Obverse **Reverse**

Figure 19. Order of the Red Banner of the Three Great Revolutions.

Order of the Railroad Service Honor

(Ch'olto Pokmu Yongye Hunchang)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of the Railroad Service Honor in three classes (Figures 20-22) on 6 October 1988. The Order of the Railroad Service Honor is awarded to the Railroad Department workers who performed distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the development of the DPRK's railroad system which guaranteed the peoples economy's transportation requirements by expanding and achieved the Korean Workers Party's transportation policy through selfless devotion.[49]

Order of the Chosun Soren Foundation Anniversary

(Ch'ongnyon Kyolsung Kinyom Hunchang)

"The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan strongly established the Juche Ideology system at each level of their organization under the DPRK's Banner and welcomed the Korean Workers Party's leadership as a Overseas Citizens Group believing in the DPRK; prepared our overseas workers and compatriots to be patriotic persons who love the fatherland and who are loyal to the Korean Workers Party; honorably maintained the Korean people's democratic rights, the Chosun Soren's lawful rights, and combatted all the DPRK's overseas enemies' plots; and who accumulated bright achievements in the work to increase solidarity with the World Revolution, in the patriotic work to achieve fatherland reunification, and to increase the flourishing prosperity of the socialist fatherland."[50]

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of the Chosun Soren Foundation Anniversary on 12 April 1990, the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Chosun Soren, in order to nationally commend the dedicated workers of business groups, and at each level of the Chosun Soren who strive to increase the fatherland's prosperity, and who perform

Figure 20. Order of Railroad Service Honor First Class.

Figure 21. Order of Railroad Service Honor Second Class.

Figure 22. Order of Railroad Service Honor Third Class.

patriotic work inside the Chosun Soren as overseas citizens of the DPRK.[51] A description of the badge of this order is not available at this time.

Order of the Korean Peoples Army 60th Anniversary Commemoration

(Choson Inmin Kun Ch'angkun 60 Tonn Kinyom Hunchang)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of the Korean Peoples Army 60th Anniversary Commemoration on 23 March 1992 in order to forever commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean Peoples Army.[52] The DPRK government recently changed the date of the Korean Peoples Army's foundation day from 8 February 1948 to 25 April 1932. The DPRK government is officially recognizing the anti-Japanese resistance guerrilla units as the beginning of the present day Korean Peoples Army. A description of the badge of this order is not available at this time.

Order of the Capital City Construction Commemoration

(Sudo Kunsul Kinyom Hunchang)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of the Capital City Construction Commemoration on 24 June 1992 in order to forever commemorate the exploits and achievements performed by the Capital City Construction workers in their struggle to turn the city of Pyongyang from postwar ruins to a modern cultural city.[53] A description of the badge of this order is not available at this time.

Awards

The Kim Il Sung Award

(Kim Il Song Sang)

The Kim Il Sung Award was established on 20 March 1972 and is awarded by the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly's Government Order. The workers who, and objects (machines, artworks, building, etc.) that received the Kim Il Sung Award will be given the Kim Il Sung Award "Gold Medal" and an award certificate. Persons who receive the Kim Il Sung Award will be officially called the "Kim Il Sung Award Winner" and the objects that receive the Kim Il Sung Award will be officially called the "Kim Il Sung Award Winning Works." The Kim Il Sung Award is awarded each year on April 15, Kim Il Sung's birthday.[54]

A. The Kim Il Sung Award is awarded to the following categories of people who performed distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the socialist revolution and construction through the realization of Kim Il Sung's instructions and its embodiment in the Korean Workers Party's Policies; who are firmly united around Kim Il Sung and who always think and act in accordance with his ideas and intentions; whose resolute convictions does not know any ideology outside of Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology; and who strongly arm themselves with Kim Il Sung's Great Revolutionary ideology, the Juche Ideology.

1) Scientists and technicians who greatly contributed to systematically improving the peoples welfare; who strengthen the DPRK's military and economic power through new scientific and technological fields or through solving important scientific and technical problems that arose during the technical revolution; and who strengthen the self-reliance of the DPRK's industry and manage its effective use as an economic foundation.

2) Workers in the publishing and news sector, and social science experts who greatly contributed to strengthening Kim Il Sung's influence domestically

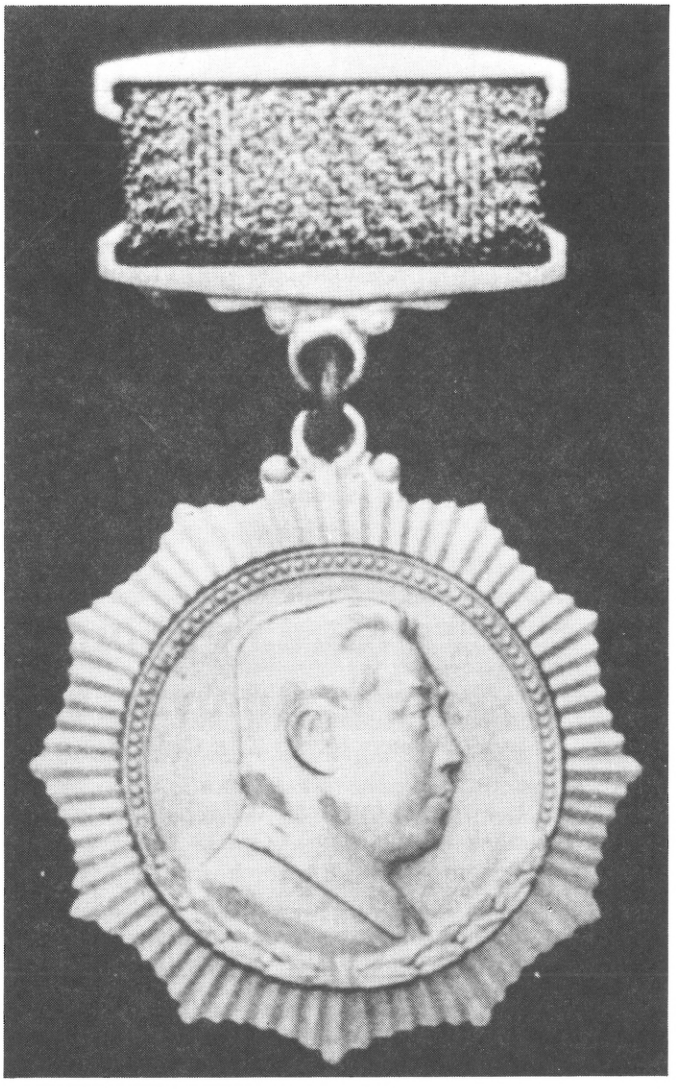


Figure 23.
Kim Il Sung Award Gold Medal.

and overseas by widely promoting his brilliant exploits; who contributed to the development of the DPRK and to the world revolution; who resolutely prove the justness of the Korean Workers Party's line and policies; and who promote as general theory the abundant experience and results attained by the Korean people during the revolutionary struggle and reconstruction.

3) Training and Education cadre and workers who greatly contributed to the education and training the Korean youth so that they become a reliable reserve of communists who are amply prepared mentally, morally and physically to become endlessly devoted to Kim Il Sung; who greatly contribute to the development of science, education and culture; who write numerous military manuals, science and technology books, and who write clearly written textbooks about Juche and working class principles; who train the political, military, culture, and technical managers who are loyal to the party and Kim Il Sung; and who embodies the revolutionary socialist education methods that match the principles of socialist and communist education.

4) Artists and Authors who strongly inspire and encourage the forward movement of our people; who strongly arm the workers with the Great Juche ideology and with the glorious revolutionary traditions deeply rooted in our party and revolution; and who create numerous revolutionary cultural and artistic works.

5) Athletes who establish new world records at international competitions and sports workers who greatly contribute by promoting the development of the DPRK's sports science.

B. The Kim Il Sung Award is also awarded to the following categories of objects that have great significance in socialist culture/construction and in the development of the DPRK's science and technology; and which thoroughly establishes the monolithic ideology system of the Korean Workers Party in the workers.

1) Large monumental works which have world historical significance by symbolizing the era of the Korean Workers Party which achieved Korean prosperity; and works that symbolizes Comrade Kim Il Sung's immortal revolutionary exploits.

2) Published culture and art works which have great significance in revolutionizing and "worker classizing" the Korean society; that strongly arms the entire people with the monolithic ideology system of the party; and that promotes the shining revolutionary traditions founded by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

3) New designs, science and technology books which have great significance in the advancement of Korean science and technology; and which strengthens the DPRK's military and economic power.[55]

Design of the Kim Il Sung Award (Figure 23). The Kim Il Sung Award Gold Medal is 12-sided and 39mm in diameter, it has gold-colored rays of light which symbolizes the respected leader's great Juche ideology, in the middle of the medal is a ring with a inner diameter of 24mm and a outer diameter of 28mm, inside the ring is an image of Comrade Kim Il Sung in gold relief. At the bottom of the ring is a laurel wreath which symbolizes victory and glory, in the upper portion of the ring are fruit 0.8mm in diameter which symbolizes the great results attained in the revolution and construction under Kim Il Sung's revolutionary leadership. The Gold Medal is suspended from the ribbon by a ring and its entire length is 65mm. The ribbon is 27mm wide and 11mm long made of gold silk; above and below the cloth are metal ornaments in order to fix the cloth. On the reverse of the medal are the words "Kim Il Sung Award Gold Medal"; there is a pin attachment on the back of the ribbon.[56]

Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award

(Choson Inmin Kun Ch'anggun 5 Chu Nyon Kinyom Munhak Yesul Sang)

Presently this award is only called the Culture and Art Award (Munhak Yesul Sang). On 22 January 1953, the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly ratified Government Decision Number 6 which dictated that 8 February 1953, the 5th Anniversary of the Korean Peoples Army foundation, established the Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award to eternally commemorate the immortal exploits of the Heroic Korean Peoples Army soldiers who fought in the Fatherland Liberation War (The Korean War 1950-53). Each year, on February 8th, the Korean Peoples Army anniversary, the Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary, Culture-Art Award will be awarded to the best Cultural-Art works which portrays the high moral character, heroism, and the patriotism of Korean Peoples Army soldier during his heroic struggle. The Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award consists of an award certificate, a medal and award money.[57]

The Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award is awarded in three classes: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class. The award money is broken down as follows:

1st Class: 40,000-60,000 Won (approximately

U.S. $20,000-$30,000)
- 2nd Class: 20,000-40,000 Won (approximately U.S. $10,000-$20,000)
- 3rd Class: 10,000-20,000 Won (approximately U.S. $5,000-$10,000

The Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award is awarded to the following categories of culture-art works:

1) Poems
2) Paintings
3) Prose
4) Sculpture
5) Drama
6) Theatrical Art (Plays, Opera)
7) Cultural Commentary
8) Dance
9) Music
10) Movies
11) News Events and Documentary Movies[58]

The DPRK Government will appoint a "Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award" awards committee, hereafter referred to as the Awards Committee, consisting of 11 persons from the Culture and Propaganda departments in order to judge and select the works that will be awarded the Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award. The Awards Committee will judge and select from works which were created between 1 January and 31 December of each year and which were submitted for consideration for the Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award. Individuals or groups/organizations must submit their works to the Awards Committee between the 1st of October until the 30th of December each year. The works selected for the Korean Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture-Art Award will be announced on the Korean Peoples Army Foundation Day the following year.[59]

Korean Democratic Youth Union Foundation 10th Anniversary Youth Honor Award

(Choson Minchu Ch'ungnyun Ch'angnip 10 Chunyon Kinyom Ch'ungnyunui Yongye Sang)

This award was first introduced on 16 January 1956 but regulations governing this award were not written until 16 January 1957. This awarded was superseded by the Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award. A description of the Democratic Youth Union Foundation 10th Anniversary Youth Honor Award medal is not available at this time.[60]

DPRK Peoples Award

(Choson Minchu Chuui Konghwa Kuk Inmin Sang)

The DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee established the Peoples Award on 7 September 1958. It is awarded to workers who have created distinguished cultural, art works or construction plans which have been widely recognized; who have improved a technical process or built a distinguished invention which was introduced into the peoples economy; or workers who have created a distinguished scientific or academic work. The DPRK Peoples Award is awarded each year on 9 September, the DPRK Foundation day in the following three categories: Science, Technology, and Culture/Art. The DPRK Peoples Award Awards Committee each year will select two people from the Science category, five people from the Technology category, and three people from the Culture/Art category to receive the award. Recipients will receive a DPRK Peoples Award certificate, a DPRK Peoples Award "Gold Medal," and prize money. The DPRK Peoples Award Gold Medal will be worn on the upper right side of the chest. The amount of prize money awarded is as follows:

- 30,000 Won ($15,000 U.S.) for awards selected from the Science category
- 20,000 Won ($10,000 U.S.) for awards selected from the Technology category
- 15,000 Won ($7,500 U.S.) for awards selected from the Culture/Art category[61]

Korean Children's Honor Award

(Choson Sonyum Yongye Sang)

The Korean Children's Honor Award was established on 3 June 1961 in order to commend Korean Young Pioneer Members who demonstrated themselves to be part of a dependable reserve force dedicated to communist construction and endlessly devoted to the Korean Workers Party and to DPRK President Kim Il Sung. It is awarded to Young Pioneer Members who become a "model member" and who demonstrate noble communist character which respects old people and adults; who love and willingly help their young brothers and their comrades in difficult situations; who comply with the social public morality; who maintains integrity and discipline as a steady model in school studies, basic duty and in the Young Pioneers organization; who performed meritorious service by actively participating in social activity for national and socialist construction; who conserve social property; and who helped discover and expose spies, saboteurs, evil elements, and the hated enemies who came to the fatherland with the intention of destroying the nation and the people's property.[62]

The Korean Children's Honor Award is bestowed by government order in accordance with the recommendation of the Korean Democratic Youth Union's Central Committee. Recipients are given prize money, the Korean Children's Honor Award Medal, and a government commendation certificate. The Korean Children's Honor Award is presented on the anniversary of the Young Pioneers Foundation Day. This award was replaced by the Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award on 9 March 1972. A description of the Korean Children's Honor Award medal is not available at this time.[63]

DPRK Monthly March 1st Award

(3.1 Wolkan Sang)

The DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee established the Monthly March 1st Award on 29 November 1962. March 1, 1919 is a significant date in the Korean independence movement. On this date the Korean people, led by students, rebelled against the Japanese occupation of Korea. The Japanese killed, arrested and tortured many patriot Koreans during the uprising. Both Koreas hold March 1st, referred to as "3.1" in Korean, as a special holiday to commemorate the patriot's sacrifice. The DPRK Monthly March 1st Award is awarded to workers in the publishing and news fields whose distinguished service or meritorious achievement in mobilizing the masses achieved Korean Workers Party policies by widely publicizing those policies; and who armed themselves with communist ideology and the Korean Workers Party's revolutionary drive. The recipient of the DPRK Monthly March 1st Award will be given a DPRK Monthly March 1st Award Certificate, the "DPRK Monthly March 1st Award Gold Medal," and prize money. The Gold Medal is worn on the upper right side of the chest. The recipient of the Chosun Democratic Peoples Republic Monthly March 1st Award will also be officially called the "Monthly March 1st Award Awardee."[64]

Design of the DPRK Monthly March 1st Award Gold Medal. The Gold Medal is a round pendant 26mm in diameter. A pentagon design which symbolizes the Anti-Japanese Partisan's revolutionary traditions is located not quite in the center but slightly toward the top of the pendant; a torch is in the center of the medal. In the upper portion of the pentagon are the words "3.1 Monthly" written in Korean and at the bottom is a laurel tree. The ribbon is a red-colored material on a 13mm x 5mm metal rectangle with a gold rim. On the reverse side of the medal are the words "Chosun Democratic Peoples Republic Monthly March 1st Gold Medal" in Korean.[65]

Chollima Honor Award

(Ch'ollima Yongye Sang)

On 11 May 1968, the DPRK Government established the Chollima Honor Award in order to honor factories, work places, and Chollima work teams who perform distinguished service and meritorious achievement in

Figure 24.
Chollima Honor Award Badge.

economic and defense construction; who are unified around the DPRK's central committee; who "revolutionize" and "workers classize"; who strongly instill in the workers the monolithic ideological system of the party; and who continually intensify and develop the Chollima Work team movement. The Chollima Honor Award is awarded to Twice Chollima Factories, Twice Chollima Work Places and Twice Chollima Work Teams (whenever a North Korean individual or organization is awarded with a second award of the Chollima title they are called "Twice Chollima ----") who are continuously innovating and pushing forward at the head of the great revolutionary upsurge; and who continue to build up the nation's economy and defense. The Chollima Honor Award is approved and awarded by the DPRK Government and is recommended by the Korean General Federation of Trade Unions Central Committee. The Twice Chollima Work Team which has received the Chollima Honor Award is awarded a Government Certificate of Commendation and the "Chollima Riders" of that group are awarded the Chollima Honor Badge and a prize. The Twice Chollima Work Places and the Twice Chollima Factories are awarded a Government Certificate of Commendation and a Chollima Honor Banner. The Chollima Honor Award Badge is worn on the right side of the chest. The Chollima Honor Award is awarded on April 15, Comrade Kim Il Sung's birthday.[66]

Design of the Chollima Honor Award Badge (Figure 24). The Chollima Honor Award Badge has a bulging red five-pointed star 41mm in diameter; inside the star are ten teeth added to a silver ring 1mm wide and 20mm in diameter. Inside the silver ring is a round white background 18mm in diameter; inside that in high relief is a gold-colored "Chollima" (horse that can travel 1,000 li in one leap); in the male rider's right hand is the collection of Kim Il Sung's works and the female rider is holding a golden rice sheaf. Outside the five-pointed star are brightly shining silver rays and on the right and left side of the five-pointed star are gold-colored rice sheaves tied with 7mm wide red ribbons. On the reverse of the badge are the words "Korean Democratic Peoples Republic Government" and a number written in 13 characters, with a pin attachment.[67]

Design of the Chollima Honor Banner. The Chollima Honor Banner is a large-sized banner 158-cm by 105-cm with a red-colored background fringed with gold embroidery thread. On the front of the banner are the words "Chollima Honor Banner" written in gold letters and in the middle is a picture of a black-colored "Chollima" (horse that can travel 1,000 li in one leap) with a male Chollima rider holding Kim Il Sung's collections in his right hand and a female Chollima rider holding a golden rice sheaf. Under the "Chollima" are the words "Korean Democratic Peoples Republic Government" written in Korean. On the banner's reverse side are the words "The Chollima Work Team Movement is the school of Great Communism and the magnificent period of our creative heroic Chosun workers class" and the words "Kim Il Sung" written in gold characters.[68]

Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award

(Kim Il Song Sonyun Yongye Sang)

(Figure 25). On 9 March 1972, the DPRK Government established the Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award which is awarded to Young Pioneer members who set an example as a distinguished model in their studies and Young Pioneer life; who strongly arm themselves with Kim Il Sung's great revolutionary ideology, the Juche ideology; who to the very end accomplish his orders and instructions; and who protect and defend Kim Il Sung's political ideology. The Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award is bestowed after receiving

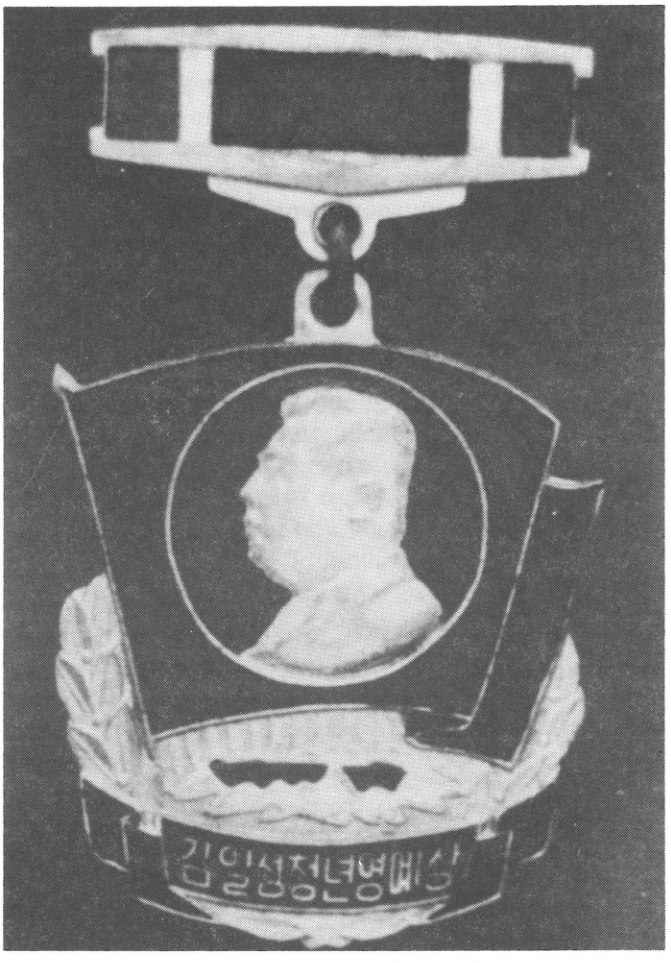
approval from the State Decorations Qualification Examination Committee on the recommendation of the Chosun Socialist Workers Pioneer members who receive the Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award will be given a prize, the Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award Badge, and the Marshall Kim Il Sung's Certificate of Commendation. The Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award Badge is worn on the left side of the chest. The Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award is presented each year on the occasion of the Chosun Young Pioneers Foundation Day. The Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award supersedes the Korean Children's Honor Award which was established on 3 June 1961.[69]

Left: Figure 25.
Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award Badge.

Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award

(Kim Il Song Ch'ungnyon Yongye Sang)

(Figure 26). On 8 January 1972, the DPRK Government established the Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award. The Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award is given to Socialist Working Youth League workers, Socialist Working Youth League organizations, and Socialist Working Youth League members who set the example as distinguished models in the struggle to hasten Socialist construction and Socialist revolution; who resolutely safeguard and carry out the realization of the party's policies and the leader's instructions; who strongly protect and defend with one's life the Great Leader's political ideology; who are firmly united around the leader; who always act and think in accordance with the ideas and intentions of the Leader; who has unyielding faith which knows no other ideology outside of His revolutionary ideology; and who strongly arm themselves with the respected Leader Marshall Kim Il Sung's great revolutionary ideology—Juche ideology. The Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award is awarded after receiving approval from the Chosun Democratic Peoples Republic State Decoration Qualification Evaluation Committee upon the recommendation of the Chosun Socialist Workers Youth Union Central Committee. The Chosun Socialist Workers Youth Union organizations that receive the Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award will be given the respected Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung Commendation Certifi-



Right: Figure 26.
Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award Badge.

cate and Prize. Socialist Workers Youth League members and Socialist Workers Youth League workers who receive the Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award will be awarded the Respected Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung Commendation Certificate, the Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award Badge, and a prize. The Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award Badge is worn on the left side of the chest. The Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award will be awarded each year on the occasion of the Chosun Socialist Workers Youth Union Foundation Day. The Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award supersedes the 16 January 1957 Democratic Youth League 10th Anniversary Youth Honor Award.[70]

DPRK New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award

(Sae Kisul Hyoksin Ui Ponghwa Sang)

On 3 July 1973, the DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the DPRK New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award in order to commend machinery equipment designers and manufacturers who design machinery equipment that is economical and which greatly contributes to the achievement of the DPRK's technical revolution; who introduce new science and technology research; and who strengthen the Technical Innovation Movement. Workers and equipment which receive the DPRK New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award will be given a award certificate and a gold, silver or bronze medal in accordance with the recipient's merits.[71]

Design of the New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award (Figure 27) given to Machinery Designers and Manufacturers. The New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award Gold Medal is circular and is 35mm in diameter; in the center is a torch which symbolizes the signal beacon of new technical innovation; the inner circle is 22mm in diameter and the outside circle is 35mm in diameter; the upper portion of the outside circle has a cogwheel which symbolizes the development of the DPRK's machinery industry in accordance with the lead of new technical innovation; and the lower portion of the outside circle has a laurel wreath which symbolizes the victory of realizing the execution of the nation's technical revolution. The gold medal is suspended by a ring to a metal bar and stamped on the metal bar on a gold-colored background are the words "New Technology" in Korean. The words "New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award Gold Medal" are stamped on the reverse of the medal. A pin on the bar attaches the medal to clothing. The design of the New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award Silver and Bronze Medal is the same as the Gold Medal; only the colors are different.[72]

Design of the New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award Medal which is given to Machinery Equipment (Figure 28). The Technical Innovation Pioneer Award Gold Medal is a bright gold color and 84mm in diameter; in the center is a torch; the inner circle is 40mm in diameter and the outside circle is 60mm in

DPRK New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award

Figure 27.
Individual's Medal.

Figure 28.
Machine's Badge

diameter; the upper portion of the outside circle has a cogwheel and the lower portion of the outside circle has a laurel wreath. In the area between the outside circle of cogwheel and laurel wreath and the outside edge of the medal are the words "Chosun Democratic Peoples Republic New Technical Innovation" stamped in striking relief. The words "New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award Gold Medal" are stamped on the reverse of the medal. The design of the New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award Silver and Bronze medals are identical to the Gold Medal except for the colors.[73]

DPRK Socialist Patriot Award

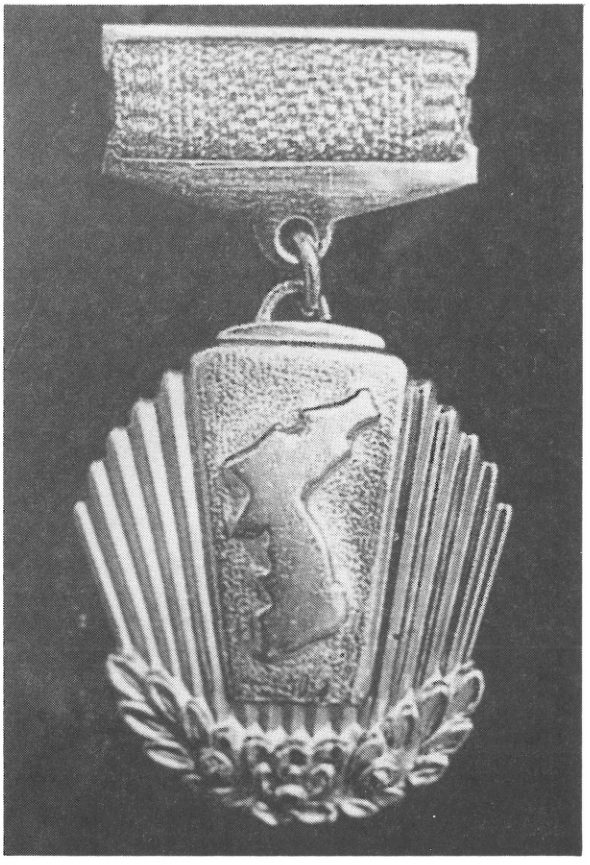
(Choson Minchu Chuui Inmin Konghwa Kuk Sahoe Chuui Aekuk Sang)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the DPRK Socialist Patriot Award in two classes (Gold Medal and Silver Medal) on 23 January 1982. The DPRK Socialist Patriot Award is given to ethnic Korean Commerce and Industry workers residing in Japan who perform distinguished service or meritorious achievement in patriotic activity with the Chosun Soren; who help increase the DPRK's prosperity; and who exhibit patriotic devotion and high loyalty to the Korean Workers Party and to the DPRK government. The ethnic Korean Commerce and Industry workers residing in Japan devote themselves to patriotic activity to insure that the DPRK flourishes and prospers as a nation. The ethnic Korean Commerce and Industry workers residing in Japan make large contributions to the DPRK government; strengthen DPRK solidarity with other progressive peoples in the world to include Japanese socialists; further the cause to achieve the unification of a independent peaceful Fatherland; and ardently support the DPRK. The description of the Gold and Silver Medals awarded with this award are not available at this time.[74]

Fatherland Unification Award

(Chokuk T'ongil Sang)

(Figure 29). The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Fatherland Unification Award on 25 July 1990. The Award was instituted on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the fatherland in order to nationally commend ethnic overseas Koreans and South and North Koreans who perform distinguished service or meritorious achievement in the struggle for independent peaceful unification of the fatherland. The achievement of the independent peaceful unification of Korea is the most pressing task facing all Korean people. Many Koreans have performed distinguished service for the fatherland and its people; numerous patriots and fighters for democracy exhibited matchless devotion and sacrifice in the struggle for the fatherland reunification during the last 45 years.[75] On 15 August 1990, two South Korean dissidents, Im Su Kyong and Mun Ik Hwan, were awarded the Fatherland Unification Award by the DPRK government. Both South Koreans made an illegal trip to Pyongyang in order to hold reunification talks with the DPRK government. Both were arrested and imprisoned upon returning to South Korea.

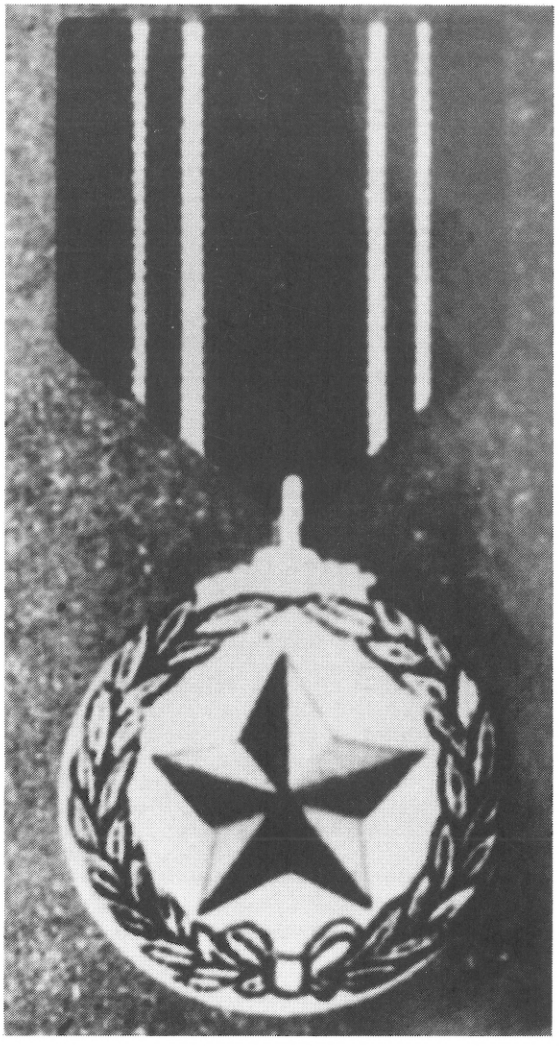


Right: Figure 29.
Fatherland Unification Award Medal.

Medals

Fatherland Liberation Fighters Medal
(Chokuk Haepang Chonsa Metal)

The DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly established the Fatherland Liberation Fighters Medal (Figure 30) on 16 October 1948. The medal was awarded to people who actively fought or who were members of guerrilla units who fought the Japanese who occupied Korea.[76]



Left: Figure 30.
Fatherland Liberation Fighters Medal
[Courtesy Igor Victorov-Orlov]

Figure 31.
Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal
Award Certificate.
[Courtesy of Igor Victorov-Orlov]

Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal

(Choson Haepang Kinyom Chang)

The Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal was established on 16 October 1948[77] to commemorate the Korean people's ever-lasting thanks to the great Soviet Military who liberated Korea from the Japanese imperialists. The Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal is awarded to members of the Soviet Military who participated in the liberation of the Korean people.[78]

Figure 31 shows an Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal Award certificate belonging to Soviet Captain P. G. Koles-Nichenko, a medal service officer who was awarded the Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal on 15 November 1948.[79]

Design of the Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal (Figure 32). The medal is circle-shaped, 33mm in diameter, made of silver, the Liberation Commemoration Tower is embossed inside the company, surrounding the tower are laurel leaves, and under that inside a ribbon is the word "Liberation," written in two characters. On the reverse is the word "Chosun," written in two characters, and the date 15 August 1945. The ribbon is 33mm wide and 36mm long, the ribbon is 26mm long at its short end just prior to going into the "V"-shaped point. When looking at the ribbon horizontally it is in the shape of the DPRK flag. The small uniform ribbon is 33mm wide and 10mm long and is the same design as that of the ribbon on the medal.[80]

Obverse

Reverse

Figure 32. Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal.

Military Merit Medal

(Kun Kong Metal)

The Military Merit Medal was established on 13 June 1949 to be awarded to soldiers with more than ten years service and in recognition of their meritorious achievement in combat, counterinfiltration operations and in the fight against foreign aggression.[81] This award was also given to Chinese People Volunteers who participated in the Korean War. This award is still being given to DPRK soldiers who have contributed significantly to the advancement of the DPRK military. During the Korean War, 540,407 medals were awarded to North Korean soldiers and 415,460 medals were awarded to Chinese Peoples Volunteers.[82]

The early version (Figure 33) awarded during the Korean War has a soft design of a North Korean soldier wearing a overcoat and carrying a rifle, standing in front of the North Korean flag. The reverse is numbered. The ribbon is rough textured and is blue (edges and center), red (both sides of the center blue stripe) and white (a narrow stripe on both sides of the center blue stripe and both sides of the red stripes) over a metal form with a crude pin broach.

A later version of the Military Merit Medal (approximately late 1950s and 1970s) (Figure 34) has a more detailed execution of the design. However, this version was not numbered, probably because of large numbers of this medal were being issued. The color scheme of this ribbon is the same as Figure 32 although the texture of the ribbon is slightly better than

Obverse **Reverse**

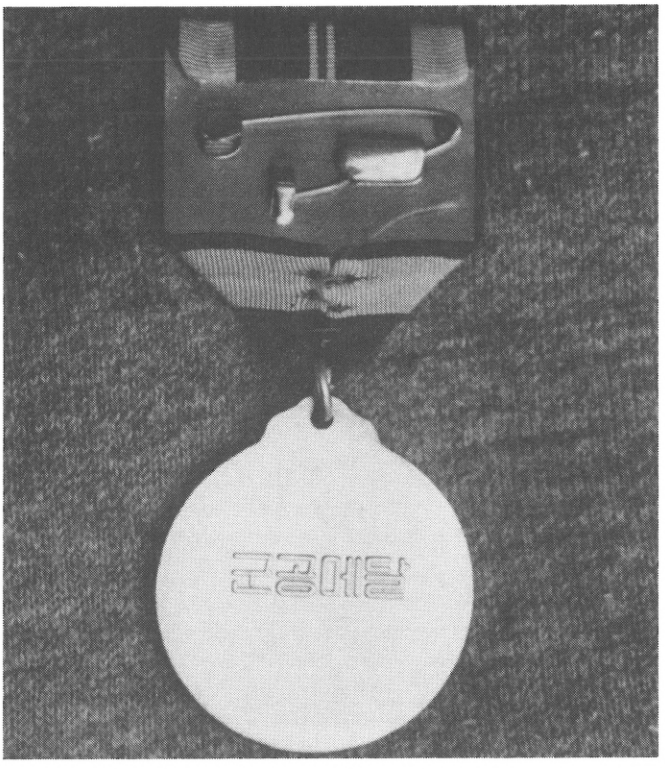
Figure 33. First version, Military Merit Medal.

Obverse

Reverse

Figure 34. Late 1950s-1970s version, Military Merit Medal.

Obverse



Reverse

Figure 35. Current version, Military Merit Medal.

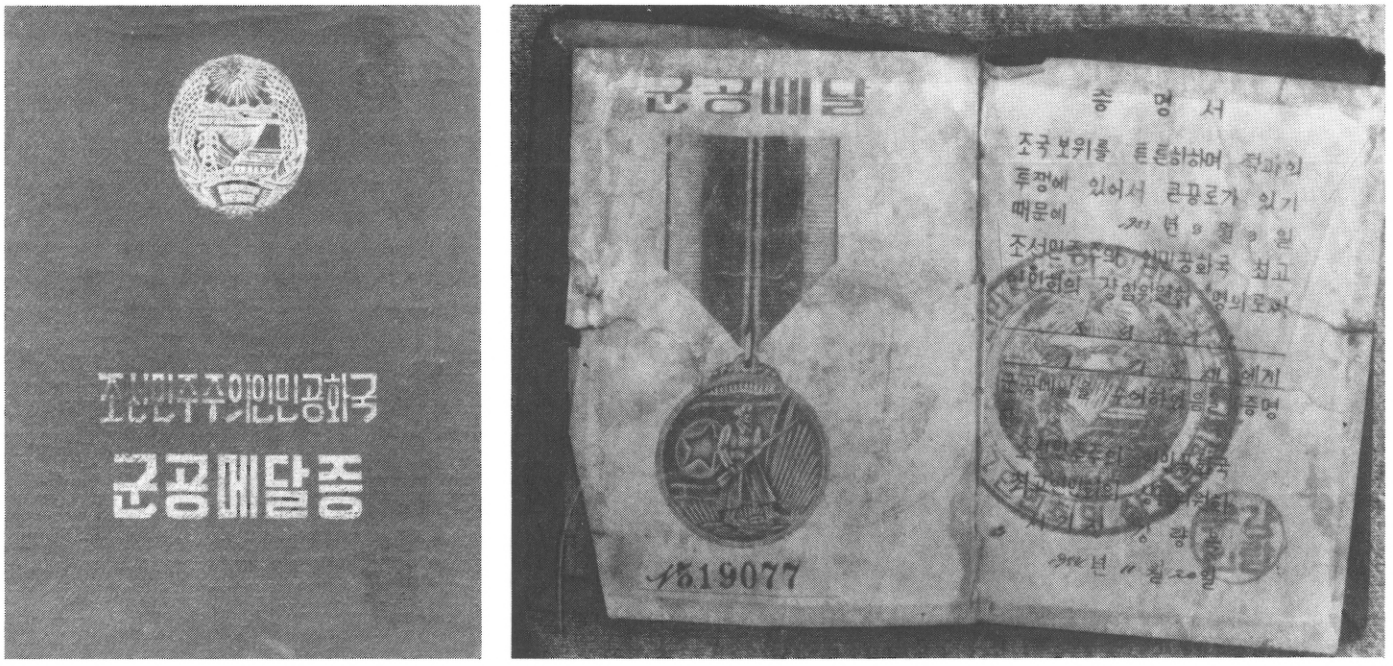


Figure 36. Award Certificate, Military Merit Medal.
Left—Front cover; Right—Award certificate.

the first version and it has a safety pin style broach.

The current version of the Military Merit Medal (Figure 35) has a design of a helmeted North Korean soldier carrying a AK-47 running in front of the North Korean flag. To the right of the flag representing the three branches of service are a tank, a ship, and three jets. Over the flag is a picture of Mt. Paekdu, a strong national symbol to all Koreans. The color scheme is the same as the previous medals although the ribbon is finely woven over a metal form with a safety pin type broach. This version was probably instituted in the 1980s.

Figure 36 shows the Military Merit Medal Award Certificate. The certificate is a 4- x 3-inch red booklet with a gold color DPRK National Emblem at the top and the words "DPRK Military Merit Medal Certificate" written in gold Korean letters. Inside the front cover is a black and white picture of the Military Merit Medal with the serial number printed at the bottom of the picture. The second page (inside the back cover) has the following: "Medal Certificate, The DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee ordered that the Military Merit Medal is awarded to Korean Peoples Army Lieutenant Lee Ung Jae in 1953 because he performed great meritorious service in the struggle against the enemy while strongly defending the Fatherland," signed by the DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Standing Committee General Secretary Kang Ryang Uk on 20 November 1954. The document has the National Emblem and General Secretary's name stamped in red over the written words.

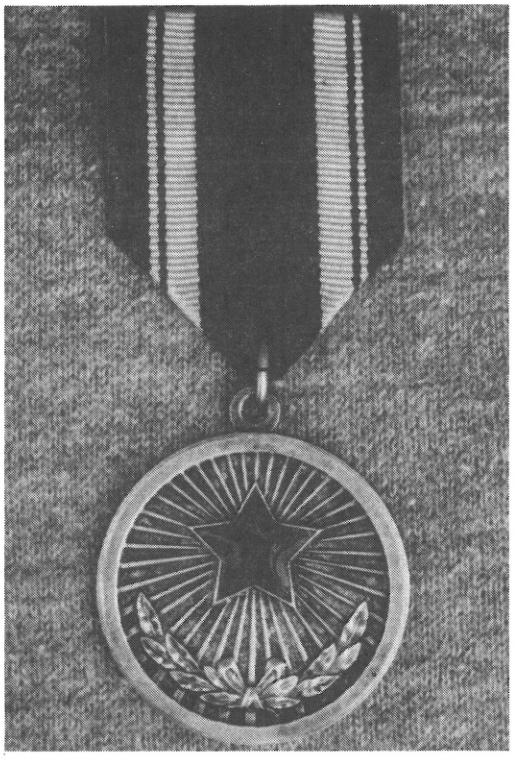
Meritorious Service Medal

(Kongno Metal)

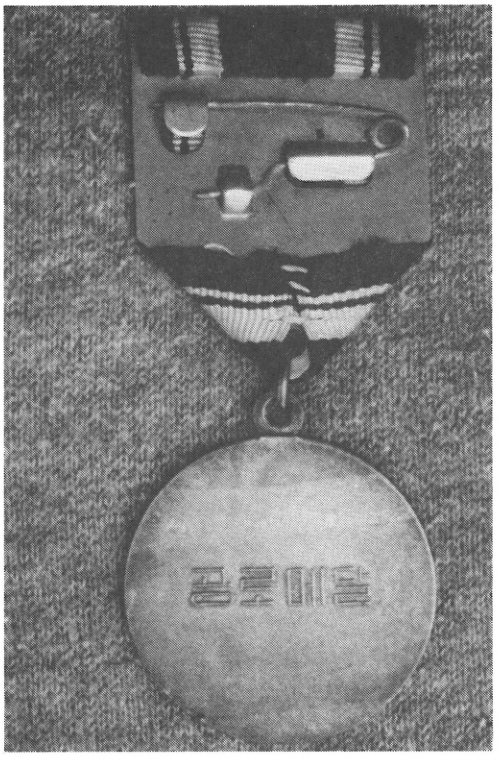
The Meritorious Service Medal was established on 13 June 1949 to be awarded to those who have achieved excellent results in developing the peoples economy for national prosperity, strong revolutionary zeal, and who have demonstrated creative ideas in the development of North Korean Culture and Arts.[83] This award has been given to members of the Young Pioneers and other civilians who demonstrated meritorious service or achievement in national projects.

The original version (Figure 37) has a small enamelled red star on silver metal with rays stamped in the medal emanating from the star. Below the star is a small gold-colored wreath. The medal has a rough textured ribbon of red (center and outer edges), white (two stripes on each side of the ribbon), and blue (one small stripe inside each white stripe) over a metal form with a safety pin type attachment.

The current version (Figure 38) is exactly as described above except that the medal is made of a light white metal and the ribbon is finely woven.



Obverse



Reverse

Figure 37. First version, Meritorious Service Medal.

Obverse

Reverse

Figure 38. Current version, Meritorious Service Medal.

Fatherland Liberation War Commemoration Medal

(Chokuk Haepang Chonchaeng Kinyom Metal)

The Fatherland Liberation War Commemoration Medal (Figure 39) was established on 13 August 1953 to commemorate the historical victory of the Korean Peoples Righteous Fatherland Liberation War which protected the fatherland's freedom and independence and opposed the United States and British imperialists armed invasion. The Fatherland Liberation War Commemoration Medal is awarded to the below-listed people who guaranteed the Korean peoples victory against the United States and Britain through brave struggle and self-sacrifice in the Fatherland Liberation War.[84]

A. Office workers, technicians and laborers who provided service to the military agencies and all participants who guaranteed victory by working in a combat area, and also, to those who participated directly on the frontline while serving in the Korean Peoples Army and Internal Security Units.

B. To persons who were deployed directly in the

Obverse **Reverse**

Figure 39. Fatherland Liberation War Commemoration Medal.

partisan struggle in the enemy's rear area and frontline in the Fatherland Liberation War as a member of a partisan unit.

C. To persons who were released from military service due to disability, disease or wounds obtained during service with partisan units, internal security units, or Korean Peoples Army units in the Fatherland Liberation War, and to members of partisan units, office workers, technicians, and laborers who served with military agencies, and to workers who moved to the non-military industries in accordance with national decisions.

D. To all the officers and soldiers of the Chinese Peoples Volunteers who participated in the Korean People's Fatherland Liberation War.

E. To office workers, technicians, and laborers in the Transportation Sector.

F. To farm workers and agricultural sector experts.

G. To science, art, culture, and education sector workers.

H. To National political agencies, party organizations, and other social organization workers.

The Fatherland Liberation War Commemoration Medal is worn on the left side of the chest. If other medals are worn, the Fatherland Liberation War Commemoration Medal will be placed immediately after the Meritorious Service Medal.[85]

Fatherland Liberation War Participation Medal

(Chokuk Haepang Chonchaeng Ch'amchon Kinyom Metal)

Figure 40.
Fatherland Liberation War Participation Medal

The Fatherland Liberation War Campaign Medal (Figure 40) was established on 13 August 1953 to be awarded, in accordance with the decision of DPRK President Kim Il Sung, to all the soldiers leaving the ranks of the Korean Peoples Army and Security forces who bravely fought during the days before the historical victory, who directly participated in the Great Fatherland Liberation War in order to safeguard the freedom and independence of the fatherland and to destroy and drive out the imperialist armed invaders headed by the Americans.[86]

Agricultural Meritorious Service Medal

(Nongop Kongno Metal)

The Agricultural Meritorious Service Medal was established by the DPRK Central Peoples Committee on 24 December 1974. The Agricultural Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to agriculture management workers and cooperative farmers (which includes managers and technicians) who performed distinguished service or accomplished meritorious achievements in the struggle to surpass production levels proscribed in the agricultural production plan, who take it upon themselves to strongly spread the technical innovation movement, who becomes a model in raising the cultural and technical levels of farm workers, and who strongly arm themselves with the Juche Ideology. The Agricultural Meritorious Service Medal is worn on the left side of the chest.[87]

Design of the Agricultural Meritorious Service Medal (Figure 41). The medal is made of silver and is a round planchet 33mm in diameter. In the upper middle part of the medal are radiating sunbeams which symbolize the "Thesis on the DPRK's Social Farm Problems"; underneath that is an electric tower, a irrigation water works gate, and a tractor which symbolizes the farm technology revolution. This is surrounded by a rice plant. The outside is 2mm wide and 0.25mm high. The reverse of the medal has the words "Agricultural Meritorious Service Medal" written in Korean.[88]

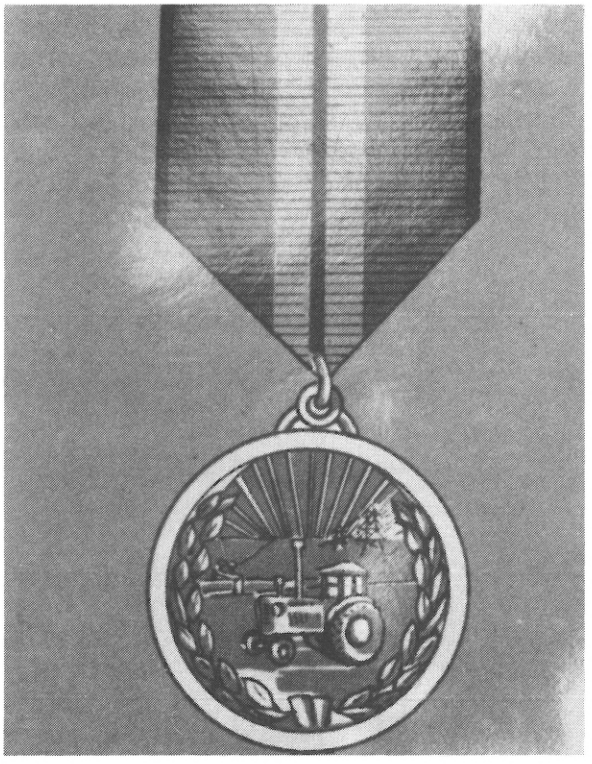


Figure 41.
Agricultural Meritorious Service Medal.

DPRK Foundation Anniversary Medal

(Choson Minchu Chuui Inmin Konghwakuk Ch'angkon Kinyom Metal)

The DPRK Foundation Anniversary Medal (Figure 42) was established on 19 August 1983 by the DPRK Central Peoples Committee in order to commemorate the anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK which inherited the bright revolutionary traditions of the Anti-Japanese Revolutionary Struggle. The DPRK Foundation Anniversary Medal is awarded to persons who render distinguished service or meritorious achievement in speeding up the transformation of the whole society on the model of Juche Ideology; who for long periods of time devotedly work for the republic's prosperity; and who highly receive the Korean Workers Party's principles and party line.[89]

Right: Figure 42.
DPRK Foundation Anniversary Medal.

Fatherland Liberation Commemoration Medal

(Chokuk Haepang Kinyom Metal)

The Fatherland Liberation Commemoration Medal was established on 25 July 1985, the 40th anniversary of the Korean Workers Party and the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK, in order to nationally commend all soldiers, workers, and laborers throughout the nation who made large contributions to the advancement of socialist economic and cultural construction; to commend those who strengthened the Peoples Armed Forces, the Peoples Regime, and the Party by faithfully carrying out their assigned revolutionary tasks in the struggle for social construction and the peoples economic recovery after the war; to commend those who fought with devotion during the time of the righteous fatherland liberation war that opposed the American and their lackeys invasion; to commend those who held high the party leadership during the construction of the new fatherland after liberation; and to commend the fighters who participated in the glorious Anti-Japanese Revolutionary Struggle.[90]

The medal (Figure 43) is made of a light gold-colored metal with a figure of a soldier carrying a rifle and blowing a bugle on a red background. The ribbon is a red piece of cloth on a bar suspension made of the same type of metal. The reverse has the words "Fatherland Liberation Commemoration Medal" written in Korean.

Obverse

Reverse

Figure 43. Fatherland Liberation Commemoration Medal.

Korean Liberation 40th Anniversary Medal

(Choson Haepang 40 Tonn Kinyom Metal)

The Korean Liberation 40th Anniversary Medal (Figure 44) was established by the DPRK Central Peoples Committee on 25 July 1985. The Korean Liberation 40th Anniversary Medal is awarded to foreigners who celebrated together with the Korean people this revolutionary holiday and who advanced and strengthened the cooperation and exchange of various specialties and friendship with the DPRK.[91]

Figure 44.
Korean Liberation 40th Anniversary Medal.

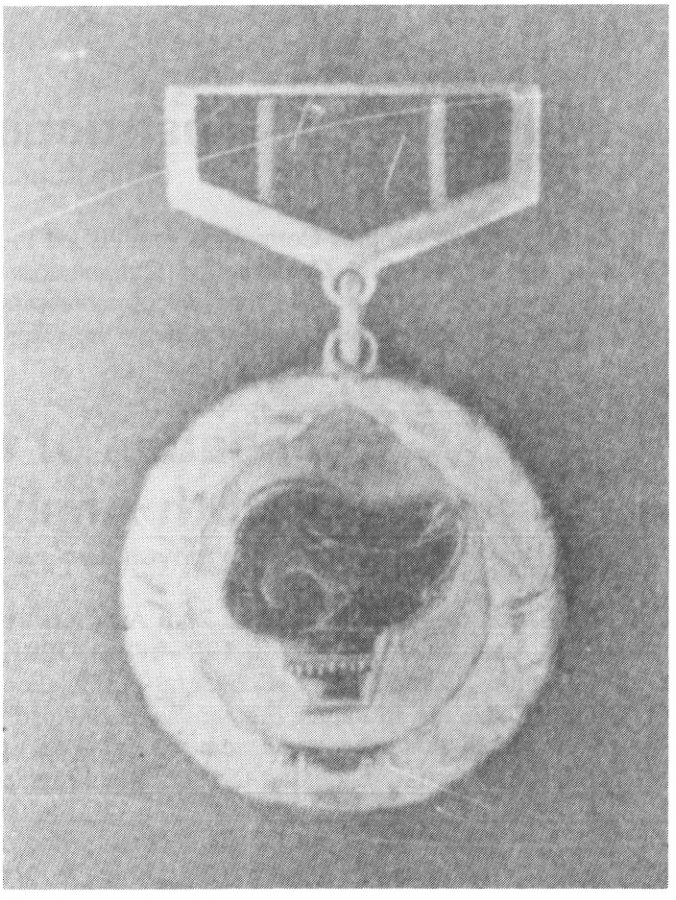


Figure 45.
Friendship Medal.

Friendship Medal

(Ch'inson Metal)

The Friendship Medal (Figure 45) was established by the DPRK Central Peoples Committee on 25 July 1985. The Friendship Medal is awarded to foreign specialists, technicians, dignitaries and diplomats who actively strengthen our revolutionary international solidarity, who develop cooperation and economic exchange, and who help strengthen their country's friendship with the DPRK.[92]

Korean Peoples Army 60th Anniversary Commemoration Medal

(Choson Inmin Kun Ch'angkun 60 Tonn Kinyom Metal)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of the Korean Peop0les Army 60th Anniversary Commemoration on 23 March 1992 in order to forever commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean Peoples Army.[93] A description of the badge of this order is not available at this time.

Capital City Construction Commemoration Medal

(Sudo Kunsul Kinyom Medal)

The DPRK Central Peoples Committee established the Order of the Capital City Construction Commemoration on 24 June 1992 in order to forever commemorate the exploits and achievements performed by the Capital City Construction workers in their struggle to turn the city of Pyongyang from postwar ruins to a modern cultural city.[94] A description of the badge of this order is not available at this time.

Foundation of the Chosun Soren 20th Anniversary Medal

(Ch'ongnyon Kyolsung 20 Tonn Kinyom Metal)

The Foundation of the Chosun Soren 20th Anniversary Medal was established on May 20, 1975 by the DPRK Central Peoples Committee. The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (known as the Chosun Soren) scored distinguished achievements in front of the Fatherland, strongly widening the patriotic struggle for the ultimate victory of our revolution, and holds high the revolutionary flag of Juche Ideology without the slightest vacillation. The Foundation of the Chosun Soren 20th Anniversary Medal is awarded on the occasion of the anniversary of the foundation of the Chosun Soren to earnest compatriots, patriotic businessmen, and Chosun Soren workers who greatly contributed to the Chosun Soren's patriotic work in order to strengthen international solidarity with the world's revolution, who facilitates the reunification of the Fatherland and maintains their Democratic National sovereignty, and who promote unity of all the Korean residents in Japan with our party and republic government under the revolutionary leadership of Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. This medal is awarded by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan Central Standing Committee in accordance with

**Right: Figure 46:
Cased Foundation of
the Chosun Soren 20th Anniversary Medal.
(Courtesy of Manions International Auction)**

the authorization of the DPRK Central Peoples Committee and is worn on the right side of the chest.[95]

Design of the Foundation of the Chosun Soren 20th Anniversary Medal (Figure 46). The Foundation of the Chosun Soren 20th Anniversary Medal is round, 43mm in diameter and is made of silver. In the center of the medal inside a 11mm circle is a five-pointed gold star. The 11mm circle is surrounded by a dark color outline. Surrounding the outside of the 11mm circle is an eight-pointed circle of sun rays which is in turn surrounded by a circle of silver raindrops. The surrounding edge of the medal consists of a wreath made of 20 laurel leaves and 20 gold-colored berries. At the bottom of the wreath is a red-colored ribbon with the words "Ch'ong 20 Nyon" in it. The ribbon is 55mm wide and 45mm long in the colors of the DPRK's national flag.[96]

Badges

Kim Il Sung Badges

"North Koreans say that the Kim Il Sung badges first appeared before the Korean War of 1950-53 and that its popularity has grown steadily."[97] However, I have never seen a newspaper or magazine photograph of a North Korean wearing a Kim Il Sung badge until 1972.

"New badges are brought out at special occasions such as a badge designed after the Worker's Party flag was introduced to commemorate the sixth congress of the party in 1980. At Kim's 60th birthday in 1972, a special badge was produced. But no new badge came out in 1982 at his 70th birthday, which was celebrated lavishly in Pyongyang."[98]

There have been many different Kim Il Sung badges of many different shapes and colors over the years. While most North Koreans say that the different badges are not used to distinguish social status or position, there seems to be indications that they are indeed used to draw distinctions among the North Korean people. Some of the badges distinguish which people belong to particular agencies and some also identify party cadre members. The Kim Il Sung badge is given to people through the municipal office associated with their residence, or through the party.[99]

Socialist Working Youth League Kim Il Sung Badge.

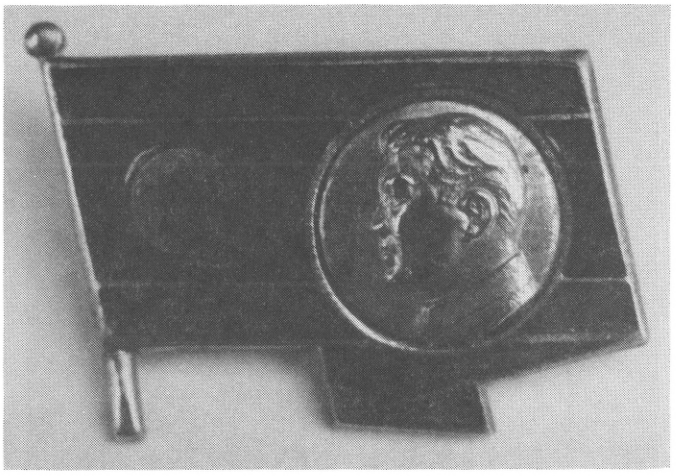
Kim Il Sung University Kim Il Sung Badge.

Early badges.

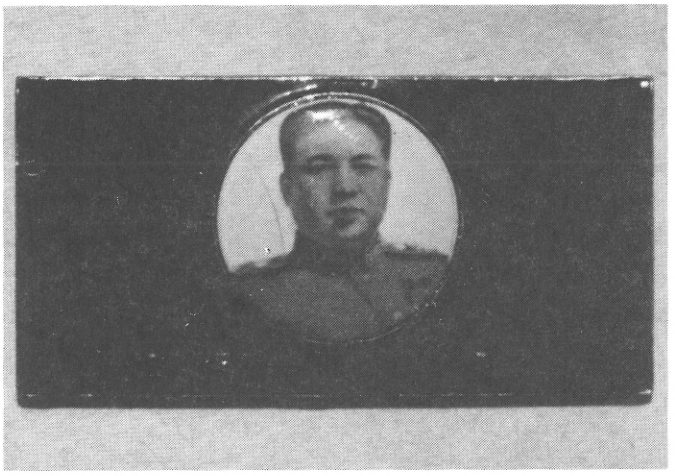
Badges used in the late 1970s-early 1980s.

Current badges.

Kim Il Sung Badges used by the general population.
(Photograph of badge at bottom right courtesy of David Stone)



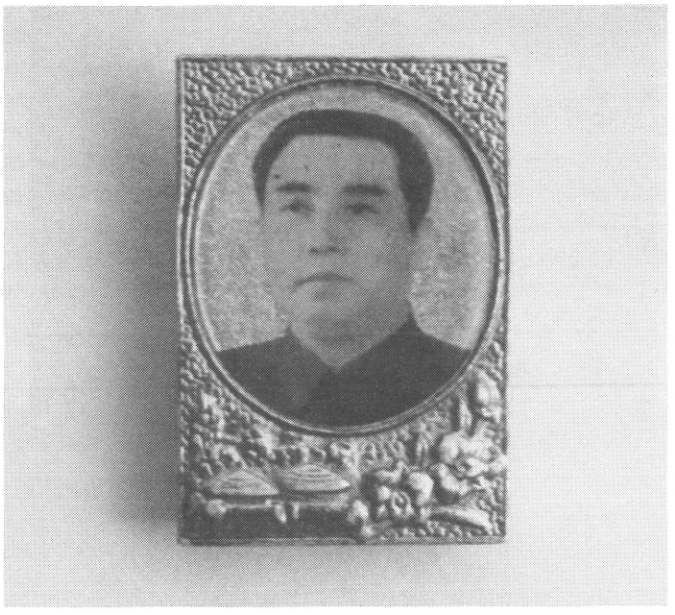
Early badge.



Late 1970s-early 1980s badge.

Kim Il Sung Badges used by Party officials.
[Above and below left]

Current badge.



[Possible] Social Safety Agency
Kim Il Sung Badge.

Model Soldiers Badge

(Figure 47). The Model Company movement began in 1952 inside the North Korean military. Originating in the "Model Company nurturing activity" which emphasizes the strengthening of the company, as the basis of the Peoples Army Organization, this movement's early stage selected enlisted men who were loyal and unselfish in military life, who were in an excellent company which obeys all rules and regulations, and who excelled in political and combat training in each unit.[100]

Right: Figure 47.
Model Soldiers Badge.

Red Flag Company Badges

During the ceremonies of the 11th anniversary of the Peoples Army Foundation in February 1959, the Red Flag Company movement was instituted in order to manage the peoples army as a revolutionary group that is firmly united around the support of one, which enhances the revolutionary character in every day life by learning to work as a communist, and to strengthen the Model Company movement which was expanded as a group model soldier movement as suggested by Kim Il Sung. This movement in accordance with the working regulations governing the Red Flag Company movement was ratified by the Peoples Army Party Committee on 1 September 1962. The Red Flag Company was initially established in three awards but has been expanded to four awards: Red Flag Company First Award (Figure 48); Red Flag Company Second Award (which is the receipt of another first award badge); Red Flag Company Third Award (Figure 49) (has a larger badge with the number "3" on the bottom), and the Red Flag Company Fourth Award (Figure 50) (the Red Flag Vanguard Company).[101]

The criterion for granting the title of Red Flag Company are as follows:

1) All the soldiers must be armed with revolutionary spirit, strengthening the levels of revolutionary tradition and the party's ideology system.

2) Faith in the communist victory.

3) Oppose revisionism, toadyism, and doctrinism.

4) Strengthened unity between senior and junior

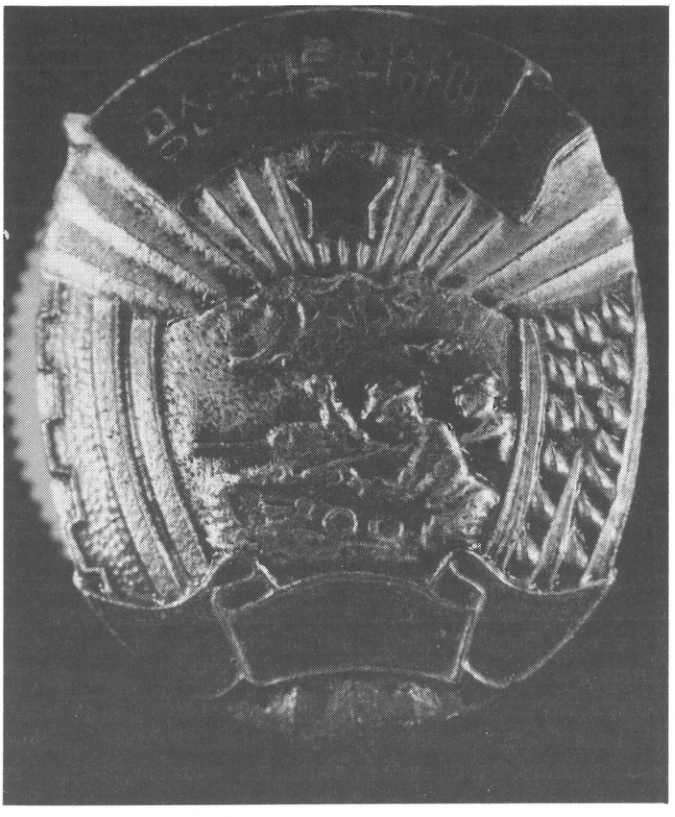


Figure 48.
Red Flag Company First Award Badge.

Figure 49.
Red Flag Company Third Award Badge.

Figure 50.
Red Flag Company Fourth Award Badge.

comrades.

5) Subjugate the remnants of the old ideologies of selfishness, ambition and freedom.

6) Strengthen the preparations for mobilization and preparations for combat.

7) Over 70% of the unit members must score excellent grades and must acquire an evaluation of excellent while actively participating in combat and political training.

8) Possess the ability to perform duty at two-thirds of the next higher level to improve military technical levels.

9) Accomplish and execute orders from superiors unconditionally.

10) Eradication of the conditions that could cause the violation of regulations, accidents, and the disclosure of military secrets.

11) Conservation and preservation of military property.

12) Solve by themselves of how to obtain over 25 grams of meat, 50% winter vegetables and 100% of spring and summer vegetables required by each member of the unit.

13) Prevent the occurrence of even one person becoming sick by obeying all sanitation regulations.

14) All members must pass the physical strength examination.[102]

Model Industry Worker/Model Engineer Badge

Since its establishment in 1948, the DPRK Government established a "Model Workers" program for every field. This program was used to urge all workers to put out maximum effort in accomplishing the goals that the government established for that field. The workers who excelled in their fields were given the title "Model Worker" for their particular field and a "Model Workers" Badge. Their achievements were also mentioned in the newspapers. The two badges shown in Figures 51 and 52 were made and awarded in the 1950s.

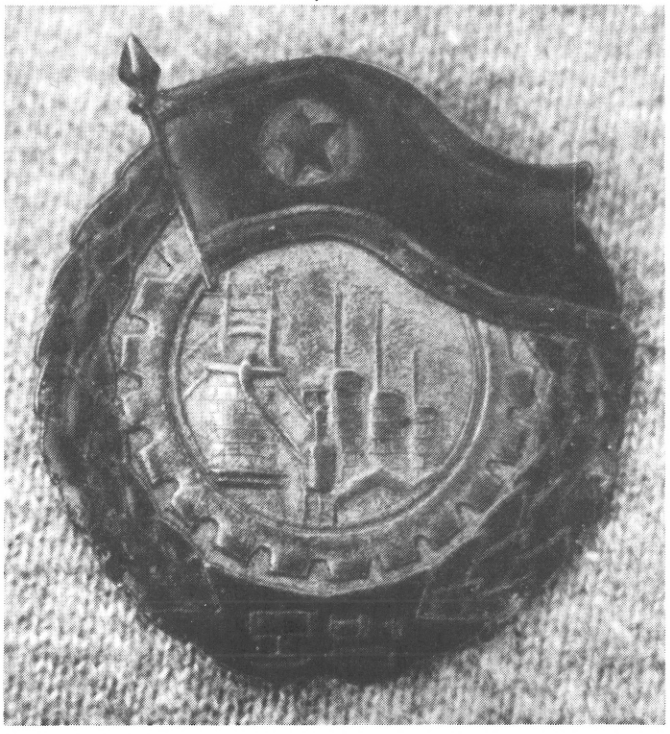


Figure 51.
Model Industry Worker's Badge.

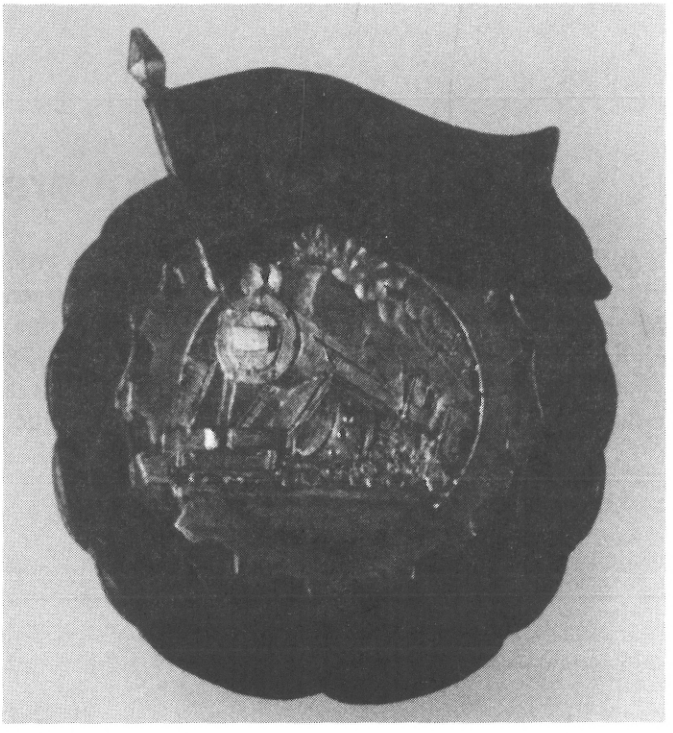
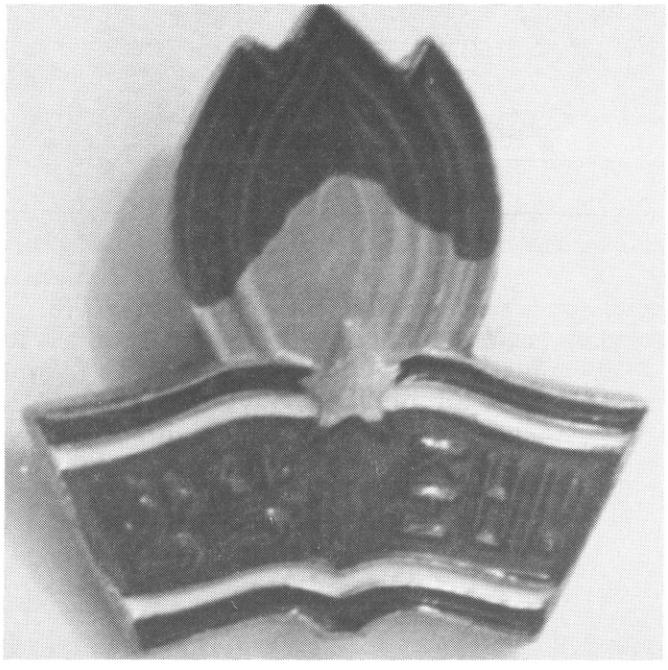


Figure 52.
Model Engineer's Badge.
(Courtesy of
Manions International Auction House)

Miscellaneous

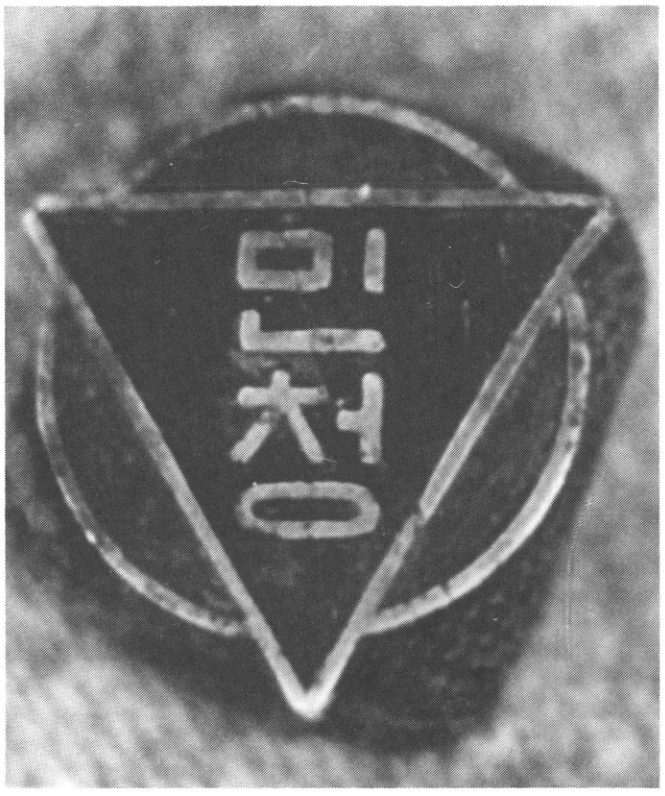
Membership Badges

In DPRK society all members want to be part of a government sponsored/approved group. Children between the ages of 9 and 15 joined the Young Pioneer Corps, young men and women between the age of 15 and 26 joined the Democratic Youth League which was replaced by the Socialist Working Youth League. Women joined the Democratic Women Union. All members proudly wore their membership badges. Members of the Supreme Peoples Assembly also wore badges showing their membership in the DPRK's most important organization.



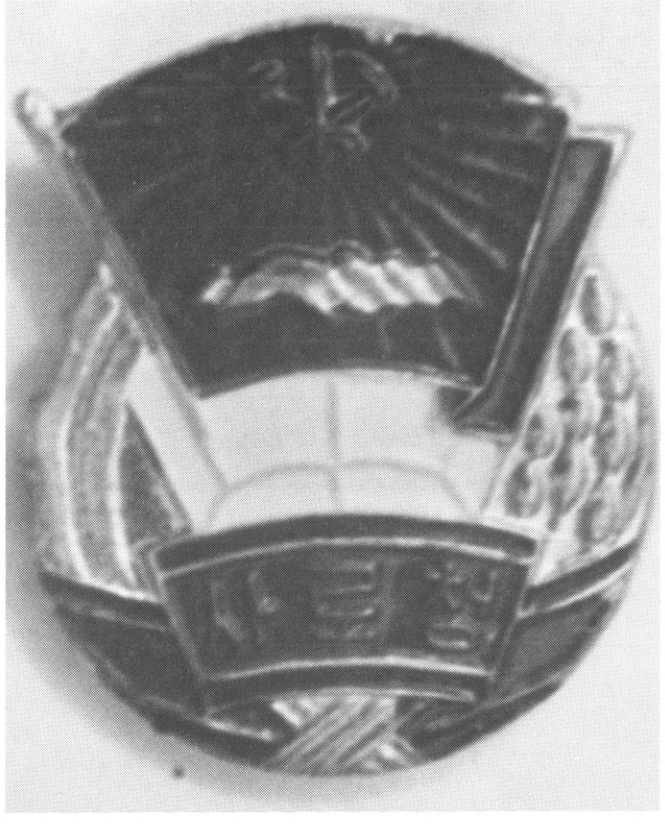
Young Pioneer Corps Badge.

Young Pioneer Corps Honor Badge.



**Democratic Youth League Badge.
First version (1950s).**

**Democratic Youth League Badge.
Second version (late 1950s-early 1960s).**

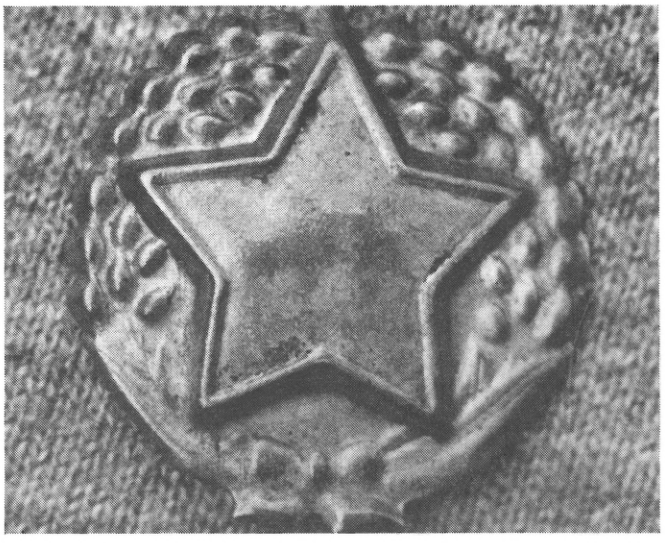


Socialist Working Youth League Badge.

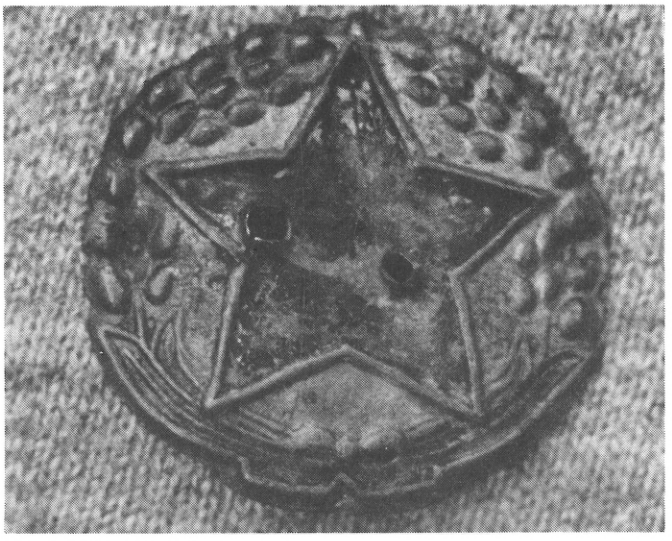
Democratic Women's Union Badge.

DPRK Supreme Peoples Assembly Assemblyman's Badge.

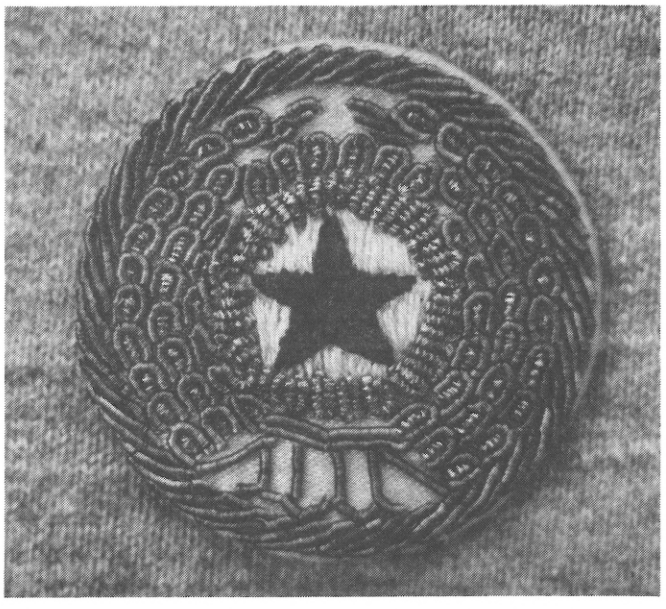
Cap Badges
(1950s)



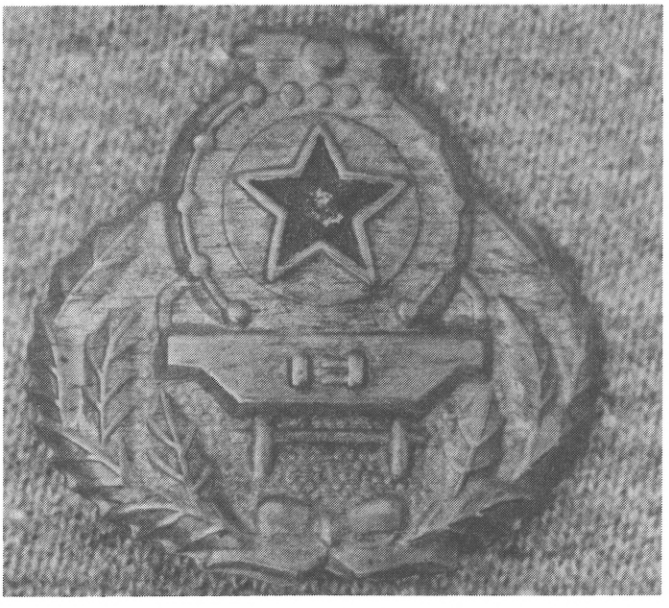
Korean Peoples Army Officers Cap Badge.



Korean Peoples Army Enlisted Man's Cap Badge.



Korean Peoples Navy Officer's Cap Badge.



Railroad Workers Cap Badge.

Chinese Peace Medal

This medal (Figure 53) has been mistakenly identified as the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea Peace Medal in the past. (See early editions of DA Pam 550-81 Area Handbook Series "North Korea, A Country Study" and early articles in OMSA's official publication, *The Medal Collector*. I want to correct any misunderstanding caused by those early articles and therefore had included this Chinese medal in my monograph on North Korean Awards. First awarded on 25 October 1953, the Chinese Peace Medal was originally awarded to Chinese and foreign military personnel and civilians who contributed to the Chinese support of North Korea during the Korean War. Since 1956, the medal has become an award for cultural exchanges between Communist China and other socialist/communist nations.[103]

Obverse.

Reverse.

Figure 53. Chinese Peace Medal.

Notes

1. Notes written by John Sylvester Jr., 13 August 1977.
2. Letter received from Peter Groch, Berlin, Germany, 23 March 1992.
3. Lim Un, *The Founding of a Dynasty in North Korea: An Authentic Biography of Kim Il-sung*, Tokyo: Jiyu-sha, 1982.
4. *North Korean Data*, compiled by the North Korean Research Institute, Seoul, 1983, pages 1513-1515.
5. "A Flood of Various Awards to Quell Public Sentiment," *Kyonghyang Sinmun*, Seoul, 12 February 1991, page 22.
6. *Ibid.*
7. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Highest Honor, The Title of Hero of the Chosun Peoples Republic," *Rodong Sinmun*, 1 July 1950, page 1; translation by the author.
8. "Awards Issued During the Fatherland Liberation War," *1954-55 Chosun Central Almanac*, Pyongyang, page 473; translation by the author.
9. "Hero of the Chosun Peoples Republic," *op.cit.*, page 1.
10. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Title Labor Hero of the Chosun Peoples Republic," *1953 Chosun Central Almanac*, Pyongyang, page 105; translation by the author.
11. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Kim Il Sung," *1972 Chosun Central Almanac*, page 90; translation by the author.
12. *Ibid.*
13. *Ibid.*
14. "Order of the National Flag," *Modern Chosun Language Dictionary*, Pyongyang, 1981.
15. *North Korean Data, op.cit.*, pages 1513-1515.
16. "Awards Issued During the Fatherland Liberation War," *1954-55 Chosun Central Almanac*, Pyongyang, page 473; translation by the author.
17. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Freedom and Independence," *Rodong Sinmun*, 8 July 1950, page 1; translation by the author.
18. *North Korean Data, op.cit.*, pages 1513-1515.
19. "Order of Freedom and Independence," *op.cit.*, page 1.
20. *Ibid.*
21. *Ibid.*
22. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of the Soldier's Honor," *Rodong Sinmun*, 2 July 1950, page 1; translation by the author.
23. "Awards Issued During the Fatherland Liberation War," *1954-55 Chosun Central Almanac*, Pyongyang, page 473; translation by the author.
24. "Order of the Soldier's Honor," *op.cit.*, page 1.
25. *Ibid.*
26. *Ibid.*
27. *Ibid.*
28. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Li Sun Shin," *Rodong Sinmun*, July 1950, page 1; translation by the author.
29. "Awards Issued During the Fatherland Liberation War," *1954-55 Chosun Central Almanac*, Pyongyang, page 473; translation by the author.
30. "Order of Li Sun Shin," *op.cit.*, page 1.
31. *Ibid.*
32. *Ibid.*
33. *Ibid.*
34. *Ibid.*
35. *Ibid.*
36. "Order of Labor," *Modern Chosun Language Dictionary*, Pyongyang, 1981.
37. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Commemoration of the Korean Peoples Army Foundation," *Rodong Sinmun*, 1 February 1968, page 1; translation by the author.
38. *Ibid.*
39. *Ibid.*
40. *Ibid.*
41. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Commemoration of the DPRK Foundation 20th Anniversary," *Rodong Sinmun*, 25 May 1968, page 1; translation by the author.

42. *Ibid.*
43. *Ibid.*
44. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Coal Mining Industry Service Honor," *Rodong Sinmun*, 4 September 1973, page 1; translation by the author.
45. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Friendship," *Rodong Sinmun*, 27 July 1985, page 1; translation by the author.
46. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Marine Industry Service Honor," *Rodong Sinmun*, 16 January 1986, page 1; translation by the author.
47. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of the 5 March Anniversary," *Rodong Sinmun*, 5 March 1986, page 1; translation by the author.
48. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of the Red Banner of the Three Great Revolutions," *Rodong Sinmun*, 22 November 1986, page 1; translation by the author.
49. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of Railroad Service Honor," *Rodong Sinmun*, 18 November 1988, page 1; translation by the author.
50. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of the Chosun Soren Foundation Anniversary," *Rodong Sinmun*, 21 April 1990, page 1; translation by the author.
51. *Ibid.*
52. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of the Korean Peoples Army 60th Anniversary Commemoration," *Rodong Sinmun*, 25 March 1992, page 1; translation by the author.
53. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Order of the Capital City Construction Commemoration," *Rodong Sinmun*, 26 June 1992, page 1; translation by the author.
54. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Kim Il Sung Award," *1972 Chosun Central Almanac*, page 89; translation by the author.
55. *Ibid.*
56. *Ibid.*
57. "About the Establishment of the Chosun Peoples Army Foundation 5th Anniversary Culture Art Award on the Occasion of the 5th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Chosun Peoples Army," *1954-55 Chosun Central Almanac*, Pyongyang, page 74; translation by the author.
58. *Ibid.*
59. *Ibid.*
60. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Kim Il Sung Award," *1972 Chosun Central Almanac*, page 89; translation by the author.
61. "Government Order for the Establishment of the DPRK Peoples Award," *Rodong Sinmun*, 8 September 1958, page 1; translation by the author.
62. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Korean Children's Honor Award," *Rodong Sinmun*, 5 June 1961, page 1; translation by the author.
63. *Ibid.*
64. "Government Order for the Establishment of the DPRK Monthly March 1st Award," *Rodong Sinmun*, 30 November 1962, page 1; translation by the author.
65. *Ibid.*
66. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Chollima Honor Award," *Rodong Sinmun*, 13 May 1968, page 1; translation by the author.
67. *Ibid.*
68. *Ibid.*
69. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Kim Il Sung Children's Honor Award," *1972 Chosun Central Almanac*, page 91; translation by the author.
70. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Kim Il Sung Youth Honor Award," *1972 Chosun Central Almanac*, page 92; translation by the author.
71. "Government Order for the Establishment of the DPRK New Technical Innovation Pioneer Award," *Rodong Sinmun*, 5 July 1973, page 1; translation by the author.
72. *Ibid.*
73. *Ibid.*
74. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Socialist Patriot Award," *Rodong Sinmun*, 25 January 1982, page 1; translation by the author.
75. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Fatherland Unification Award," *Rodong Sinmun*, 6 August 1990, page 1; translation by the author.
76. Pak Den Sam, "Orders and Medals of the DPRK," *Novaya Koreya*, No. 3, 1955; translation by Prof. Igor Victorov-Orlov.
77. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal," *Rodong Sinmun*, 17 October 1948, page 1; translation by the author.
78. *Ibid.*
79. Letter received from Prof. Igor Victorov-Orlov, 3 May 1992.
80. "Korean Liberation Commemoration Medal," *op.cit.*, page 1.
81. "Military Merit Medal," *Modern Chosun Language Dictionary*, Pyongyang, 1981.
82. "Awards Issued During the Fatherland Liberation War," *1954-55 Chosun Central Almanac*, Pyongyang, page 473; translation by the author.
83. "Meritorious Service Medal," *Modern Chosun Language Dictionary*, Pyongyang, 1981.
84. "About the Establishment of the Fatherland Liberation War Commemoration Medal," *1954-55 Chosun Central Almanac*, Pyongyang, page 49; translation by the author.
85. *Ibid.*

86. "Fatherland Liberation War Participation Medal," *Modern Chosun Language Dictionary*, Pyongyang, 1981.
87. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Agricultural Meritorious Service Medal," *Rodong Sinmun*, 26 December 1973, page 1; translation by the author.
88. *Ibid.*
89. "Government Order for the Establishment of the DPRK Foundation Anniversary Medal," *Rodong Sinmun*, 25 August 1983, page 1; translation by the author.
90. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Fatherland Liberation Commemoration Medal," *Rodong Sinmun*, 25 July 1985, page 1; translation by the author.
91. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Korean Liberation 40th Anniversary Medal," *Rodong Sinmun*, 25 July 1985, page 1; translation by the author.
92. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Friendship Medal," *Rodong Sinmun*, 27 July 1985, page 1; translation by the author.
93. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Korean Peoples Army 60th Anniversary Commemoration Medal," *Rodong Sinmun*, 25 March 1992, page 1; translation by the author.
94. "Government Order for the Establishment of the Capital City Construction Commemoration Medal," *Rodong Sinmun*, 26 June 1992, page 1; translation by the author.
95. "About the Establishment of the Foundation of the Chosun Soren 20th Anniversary Medal," *Pukhan Popryong chip, Volume 1*, Continent Research Institute, page 364, Seoul, Korea, 1990.
96. *Ibid.*
97. "Kim Il-sung badges used to draw distinctions in 'classless' N.K.," *Korean Herald*, 6 July 1989, page 5.
98. *Ibid.*
99. *Ibid.*
100. *North Korean Data*, compiled by the North Korea Research Institute, Seoul, 1983, page 1518.
101. *Ibid.*
102. *Ibid.*
103. *Handbook on the Chinese Armed Forces*, Defense Intelligence Agency, pages 10-13, July 1976.

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